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THE SPHERE, MARCH 29, 1947
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THE SPHERE

Vol. CLXXXVIII No. 2460 WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE GRAPHIC MARCH 29 1947

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Volume CLXXXVIII No. 2469 The SPHERE, London, March 29, 1947

THE SPHERE
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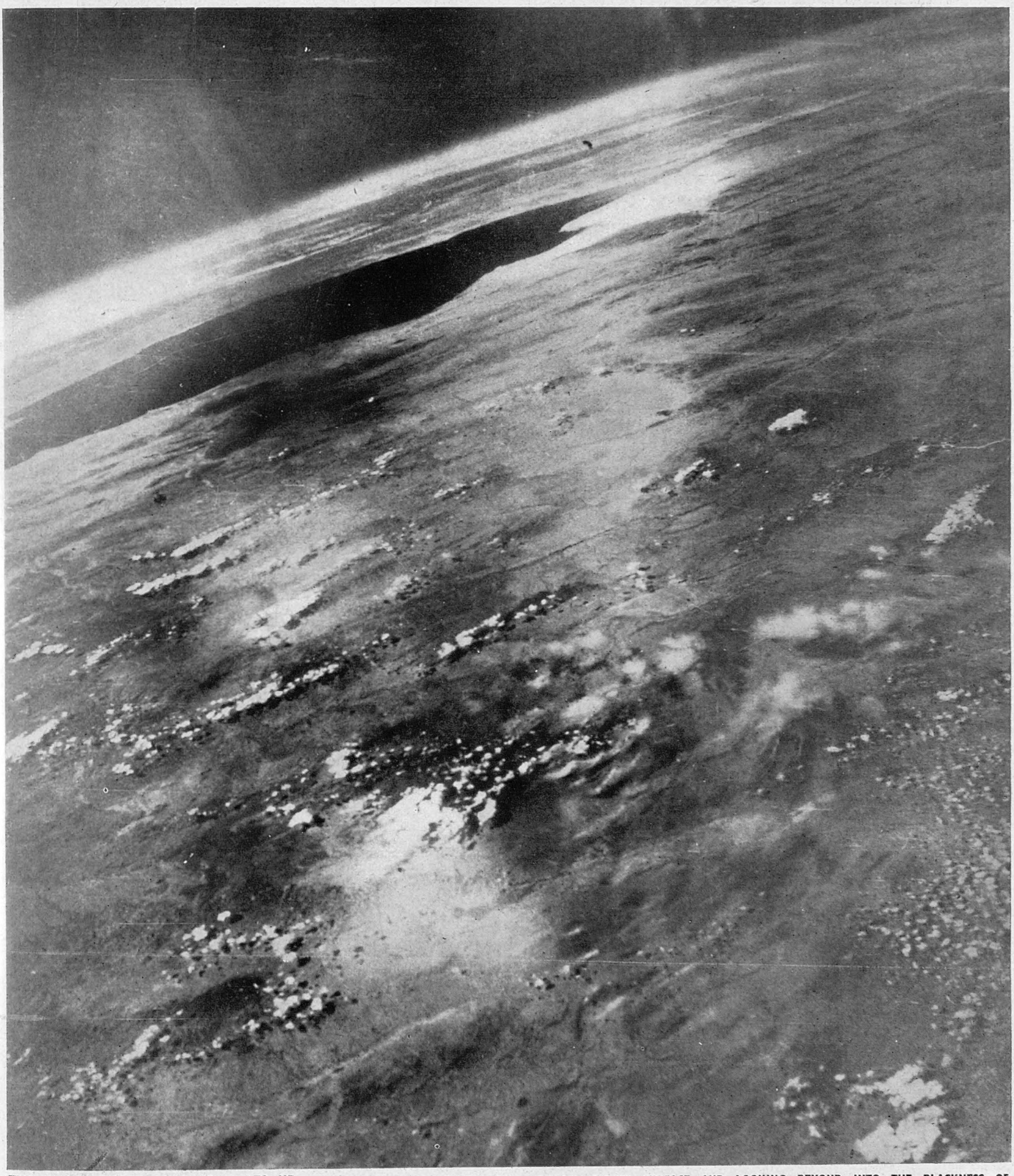
The Empire's Illustrated Weekly



THE EARTH VIEWED FROM 100 MILES UP—THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE WORLD'S CURVED SURFACE AND LOOKING BEYOND INTO THE BLACKNESS OF PURE SPACE, WAS TAKEN FROM THE WAR-HEAD OF A V 2 ROCKET ABOVE THE U.S. TESTING GROUNDS, NEW MEXICO : The dark body of water on the left is the Gulf of California. More than 200,000 square miles of Mexico and the United States are recorded. The white fluffy spots are cloud formations

The V 2 rocket, the weapon that Hitler reserved for London in the closing stages of the war, has for some time past been the subject of intensive research at the United States Army Proving Grounds at White Sands, New Mexico. These ex-German rockets, and also improved patterns made in America, are being fired regularly with a view to compiling military and also scientific data, and in the latest experiment a rocket has been sent 100 miles into space, with its war-head equipped with an automatic camera placed in the rocket by scientists of John Hopkins University. During every second of the rocket's ascent through the stratosphere to the ionosphere, four pictures were taken, and the photograph taken at the summit of the ascent actually covers 200,000 square miles of territory on the North American Continent. The previous maximum height at which V 2 camera records were made was 65 miles. The results, it may be remembered, were published in *The Sphere* of November 30 last year

Postage—Inland, 2d. ; Canada and Newfoundland, 1d. ; Elsewhere Abroad, 1½d.

A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

The Last Viceroy.—The last Viceroy of India is a great-grandson of Queen Victoria, who was proclaimed Empress of India on January 1, 1877. Disraeli's gift to his Queen was assumed at the time to have a longer expectation of life than seventy years. All the splendours which grew up round the Viceroyalty suggest that that was so. I suppose Lord Lytton was the first Viceroy, for it was during his term as G.-G. that the Queen-Empress pronouncement was made. Warren Hastings (1774) was the first to be named Governor-General, and it is remarkable how large a proportion of his successors enhanced already high reputations during their terms of office. It was the usual thing for an outgoing Viceroy to be claimed as a successful administrator. Some faced acute difficulties and dangers, some had a comparatively easy time of it. Very few, indeed, are acknowledged failures in history—perhaps half a dozen. But looking back on India's history since 1774, it is permitted to comment that Viceroys' reputations were usually assessed too soon for sound judgment. Their works or omissions came to fruition after they were gone or dead; and it is still rather difficult to judge with exactitude which Viceroys deserved best of India and England and which of their achievements rank highest in value on the short or the long-term view. "Expensive" is an adjective not inept in qualifying the administration of India in the last 170 years. The word is applied to a water-ram which, in transit, loses five-sixths of the water which it painfully pushes up.

PREPARING FOR THE FRENCH TAPESTRY EXHIBITION—CELEBRATED WORKS OF ART BEING ASSEMBLED FOR HANGING AT THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM IN PREPARATION FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING: The Exhibition, the most important of its kind ever held in this country, has been staged in co-operation with the French Government. It starts officially to-day (Saturday), yesterday having been the private view day, and it will continue for two months, thus giving the British public ample time to see works of art which, in some instances, are extremely inaccessible even to the French public. The Exhibition includes a large part of the celebrated series of the "Apocalypse" from Angers, and also the great set of the "Dame à la Licorne" from the Cluny Museum. It is also the first time that the series of the "Life of the Virgin" from Rheims Cathedral has ever been shown in its entirety. A number of modern panels illustrative of the revival of tapestry-weaving which is now taking place in France are also being displayed, and it is hoped that weavers from the Gobelin factory will give demonstrations of their art. (*See* pages 368-369)

Leadership and Interference.—Two years are an adequate testing time for a Government and a Premier. Under normal conditions, one year is quite enough to produce clear reactions if a Government has failed to satisfy its electorate. Mr. Attlee has had a year of grace. The problems which beset him were heavy and complex; many were inherited; the long war was responsible for many more. He deserved a year of grace, and he got it. The electorate in its undreamed-of afflictions has been, on the whole, loyal and restrained to admiration. Two years, one year, ago, many an opponent of Socialism consoled himself with the reflection that, at any rate, a Conservative Government, set in power in 1945, must have collapsed within six months against the opposition of Socialism in the House and the T.U.C. in the country. And even a year ago and less, these same opponents of Socialism deplored the absence of constructive alternative policies in the parties of the Right. To-day things are a little clearer, reaction is undoubtedly on the move. Mr. Attlee's Government was born under the most unlucky star in history. Nothing has gone right for it. The stars in their courses have proved themselves anti-Socialist. Dreams and theories put before brass-tacks and priorities have proved its Waterloo—at any rate, its Clapham Junction. Mr. Attlee and his team know one thing at least. Leadership is not in them, not in one of them; and the country clamours for leadership. They are quite obviously very touchy at the mention of the word. The only leadership they understand is fussing and interference and disguising unpleasant truths. The only leadership that counts in Britain, and can avail to-day, is the leadership that tells the whole truth, howsoever bitter, howsoever damaging, and rises to the heights of sacrifice of self, of party, of career; and so, by personal example of greatness, can inspire the common man to be great. The common man has at last realised that in resigning his individual liberty and initiative, he has parted with his soul and his native genius. And now, after two years, the cry for leadership has grown insistent, and men of every class and type recall that leadership in the past crises of our fate has always gone hand in hand with individual liberty, has stimulated, not scotched, individual initiative. Indeed, in a slave state there is no such thing as leadership. There is only the tyranny of the Hitler . . . or of the nursery governess.

"Exeat Etona."—*The Times* light article on this subject was happy. So at least it must have struck about 1,000 boys. It is an unprecedentedly evil wind which blows nobody any good. But parents are a mixed race, fond, foolish—and sometimes penny-wise. The geography of Eton and the costs of education at that seat of learning sometimes make strange bed-fellows. One or two or three weeks of board and tuition cut out of a short term may be jam for the boys but gall for the sterner type of parent. But *tout comprendre*, etc. As the fond parent of an Eton boy, I do indeed sympathise with the difficulties and anxieties and infinite labours which this fearful Easter Half has brought on "M' Tutor." If the "scramble to get home" amused the boys and somewhat embarrassed a hundred or ten hundred parents, who received no notice whatever of the impending pleasant surprise, the difficulties which faced the school authorities were instantly appreciated; and I, for one, was cheered up by the sudden irruption of a "smiling morning face" into a house which seven weeks of a foul and solitary winter had rendered drab and dull and spiritless. This unexpected access of good spirits was cheap at the price, and the sacrifice of "Trials" at Eton compensate somewhat for the trials of winter. I think I am right in saying that Etonians who are contemporary with me were sent home no less than three times during their time at Eton because of floods, and much resented it when at last Dr. Warre's representations to the Conservancy Board induced the River Authority slightly to increase the number of weirs. In a letter dated March 20, 1896, to Bigge, Dr. Warre described the hopeless difficulties he found in moving to action the Conservancy Board. He had gone with a deputation to Mr. Ritchie at the Home Office and gained the sympathy of the Queen through Arthur Bigge. That was half a century ago, but how little progress has been made—except in the creation of "all-time" records.

Weather or No.—I wonder whether the weather is too much with us. Age cannot wither our interest in our weather. But whether we should weather the weather better if we heard less about it, I do not know. I do not—cannot—underrate the disastrous consequences of this winter's misfortunes on our hopes of revival and even of survival, but I am led to speculate on the point by the remarkable facts (or pronouncements) which occurred during the week-end of March 15-17. Into those three days were crammed more weather records (in an age devoted to records) than were ever before recorded in so brief a space. On the 15th full statistics were released, showing that the cold snap of January, February, March 1947 was, for cold, continuity, sunlessness, depth and drift-depth of snow, a record for eighty-seven years. The blocking of roads and railways was an all-time record. The loss of livestock was an all-time record. On the 16th, we learned that the floods in parts of England had set up an all-time record, beating those of 1894 and the '60's. On the 17th we learned that the gale of the night before had set up a new record of m.p.h., beating our famous November gale in the '30's. It will be recalled that the warmth of February 1946, the sunless, wet summer of 1946, the wet and stormy autumn of 1946, all set up fifty-, seventy- or ninety-year records. Our benighted ancestors had no wireless sets and they read out-of-date, loaned news-sheets which carried no news to speak of beyond political squibs and the doings of the fashionable world. . . . And I have a hunch that, enjoying much the same varieties of weather as we do, they worried less about it and got through it with less discomfort. They weathered their weather less hysterically, whether it were hot or cold, calm or stormy, drought or damp. And, philosophically, they never lost sight of the fact that hard winters, and in some areas floods, have a long-term beneficent effect on agriculture. In a word, our ancestors were not 100 per cent. specialists in *bad news*, as we have become.

Foundrous.—Our local bureaucracy (West Sussex) has coined a new word. New, at least, to me. On most of our local roads—indeed, wherever there is a chalk foundation—I read, as I drive on my lawful occasions, a notice with this strange device: "CAUTION.—Proceed with care for 1 mile. Road Foundrous." It is not a bad descriptive word. It implies that a crater has been formed by the cracking and removal of the surface-dressing and in the crater is a pudding of slime, axle-deep, as wide as a wheel. It is not safe to speed. How long will it be, and what will it cost the rate-payer, before these roads are restored? Surely Mr. Attlee and his team of planners were borne to power under the unluckiest star ever. Did any Government in history ever set its feet on a road so *foundrous*?

More Paper.—School children in Kent are compelled to use old newspapers for their exercises. The new education is threatened with a halt, since there is no paper for pot-hooks. I read this sad news on the morning on which I received my new P.A.Y.E. packet, a heavy mass of stationery, booklets, cards, instructions. Enough fine paper to last a Kent school a week. And as it proved, as it *has* proved since P.A.Y.E. came in, *utterly redundant* in my case. For, at last, I have extracted from my Inspector the reluctant admission that if my gardener receives, as he does and always has done, an unvarying weekly wage and that wage below his tax-free income, I need not keep up those absurd "tax deduction" columns every week, need only enter once a year on a *single* card his total pay! But since P.A.Y.E. came in, I have been forced to do so, and at regular intervals the spate of useless stationery has been dumped on me—and still will be, mark my words. There are reasons for despair in a country groaning under a swollen and half-trained bureaucracy.

THE OLD STAGER

THE TRAGEDY OF FENLAND

Flood-waters Pour Through the Earith and Southery Breaches

THE EARITH BREACH, SOUTH OF ELY: An aerial view of one of the vital gaps in the Fen defences through which the flood-waters of the Great Ouse have been pouring, inundating thousands of acres of rich agricultural land. It was at first decided to put a Bailey bridge into the gap and fill this with sandbags. Some of the equipment for the work is seen on each side of the breach. Later an attempt was made to sink amphibious Army vehicles across the gap

THE FLOOD-WATERS RACE THROUGH THE SOUTHERY BREACH: A dramatic picture, epitomising the present tragedy of Fenland, showing the water surging across the highway between Ely and King's Lynn. Hundreds of troops, volunteers, and prisoners of war worked during last week-end to stem the waters, which inundated 25,000 acres of agricultural land in Hopewell, Feltwell, and Methold Fens. The ground floor of the farmhouse on the left is completely flooded, and water is about to lap round the doors of the building on the right

THE ATTEMPT TO CLOSE THE EARITH BREACH—THE FIRST NEPTUNE AMPHIBIOUS ARMY VEHICLE PLACED IN POSITION DURING THE START OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE OPERATIONS AFTER THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO SEAL THE GAP WITH A BAILEY SPAN HAD BEEN ABANDONED AS IMPRACTICABLE: In charge of this work was Brigadier E. E. Read, of the Royal Engineers, with a large labour force at his command. It was decided last week-end that twelve of these Neptune amphibious load-carriers, each weighing 15 tons and costing £15,000, should be sunk near the 170-ft. gap, and that sandbags and other material brought along the light railway built on the dyke should be packed round them to create a firm resistance to the flood-waters. The whole barrier was subsequently surrounded with layers of Somerfield track, the emergency runway material used by the R.A.F. during the war. By last Monday the level of the Great Ouse was said to be falling, but it was emphasised that if there was any more rain the consequences might be serious for vast additional stretches of East Anglia. The farmers have already sustained enormous losses, and the sowing of main crops has been indefinitely delayed in one of our most productive areas. During the week-end Mr. Kalis, a Dutch engineer, formerly superintendent of the Walcheren gaps, telegraphed offering his services

THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER, PRINCE RICHARD (AGED TWO-AND-A-HALF) AND PRINCE WILLIAM (AGED FIVE) WAVING GOOD-BYE FROM THEIR CAR AS THEY LEFT TILBURY EN ROUTE FOR LONDON: They had just disembarked from the "Rangitiki," which had brought them home from Australia at the end of the Duke of Gloucester's term as Governor-General. The Duke, it will be remembered, flew home from Australia in order to take over the Regency Council

FIRST MOMENTS ASHORE: The Duchess of Gloucester with Prince William and Prince Richard (left) after disembarking from the liner "Rangitiki"

Personalities in the News

The DUCHESS of GLOUCESTER'S RETURN

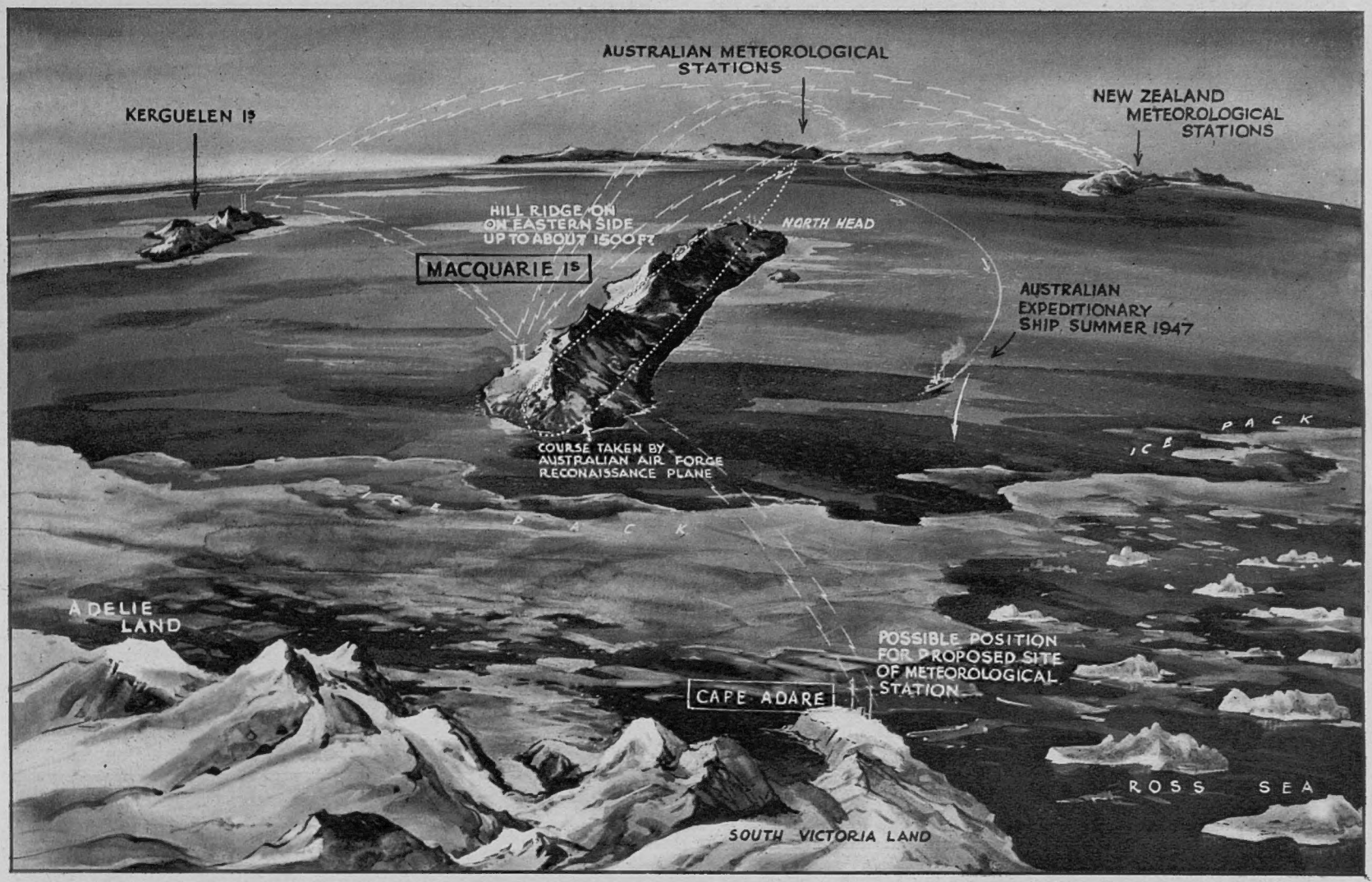
Ambassador Douglas Arrives in London

Last week saw the return to London of the Duchess of Gloucester and the Princes, after two years in Canberra, and also the arrival of Mr. Lewis Douglas, the new American Ambassador, who was received this week at Buckingham Palace by the Duke of Gloucester, who is acting on behalf of the King during his absence. Mr. Douglas, an opponent of Roosevelt's New Deal, was a keen supporter of his foreign policies

PRINCE RICHARD AND PRINCE WILLIAM WAVE GOOD-BYE TO SHIPBOARD FRIENDS: The young Princes at Tilbury on returning to England. Prince William will be six in December

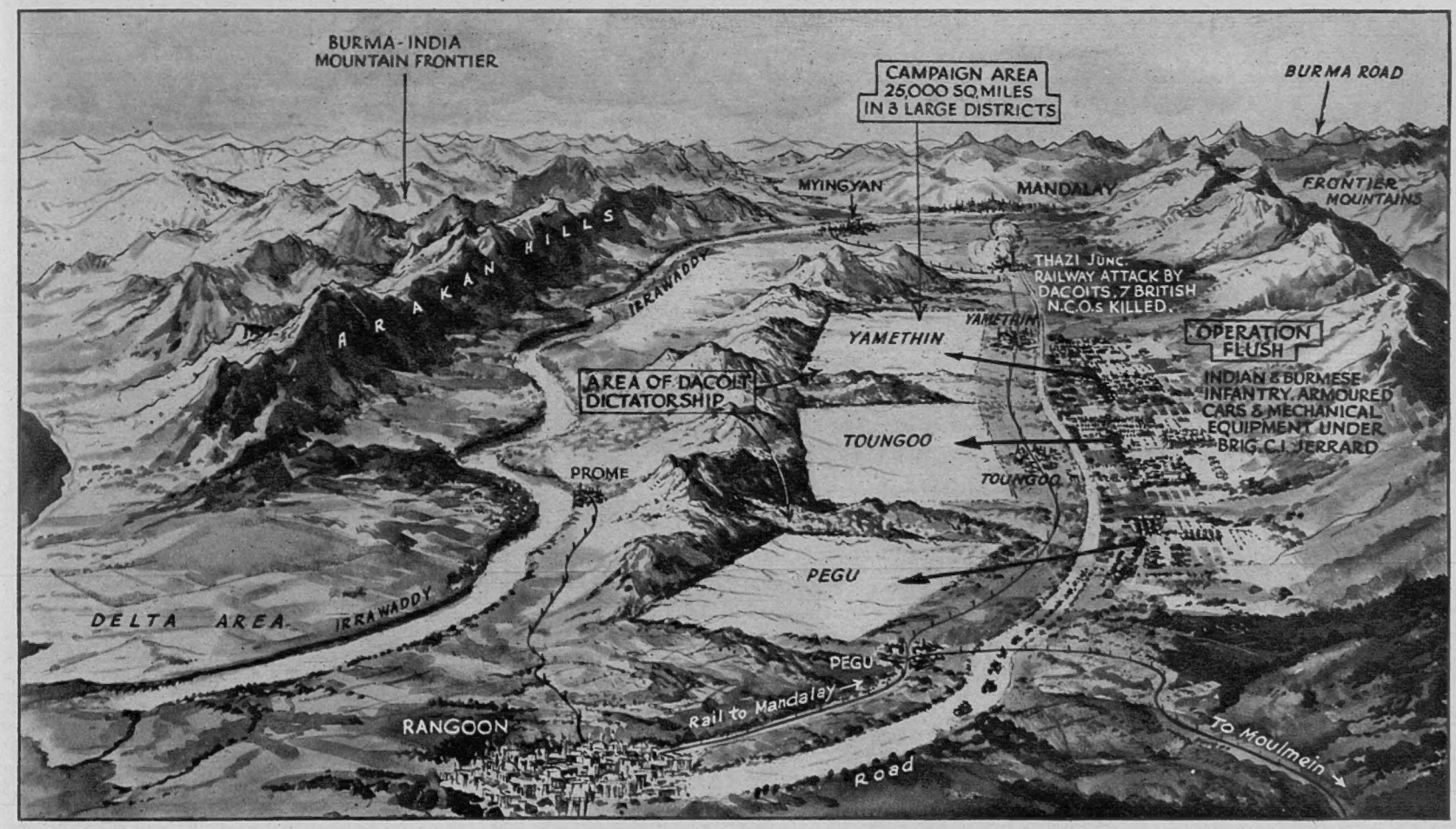
A NEW MINISTER TO THE HOLY SEE: Mr. J. W. T. Perowne is to succeed Sir D'Arcy Osborne at the Vatican. He is a former Counsellor in the Foreign Office, has held many diplomatic posts in Europe, and has been head of the South American Department of the Foreign Office. Sir D'Arcy retires from the Holy See after eleven years as Minister

THIS WEEK HE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER: Mr. Lewis Douglas, the new United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, seen addressing a Press conference following his arrival in Britain. Mr. Douglas, who hails from Arizona, where he spent much of his youth and worked in the mines, has been called to his present post from the presidency of a large insurance company, but he has had an active career in politics as well as business, and he was Franklin Roosevelt's first Director of the Budget. Later, in protest against deficit spending, he resigned, backing Landon in 1936 and Willkie in 1940. Mr. Douglas's grandfather, the U.S. magazine *Time* recalls, left Scotland and a career as a scholar to go prospecting, and hit the jackpot with the fabulous Copper Queen Mine at Bisbee. In a recent interview, the new Ambassador declared: "England is a good risk, but it will be a sorry, sorry day ultimately for the American nation when we condition our loans solely on whether they are good risks or not"



WHERE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WILL OBTAIN THEIR ADVANCE WEATHER INFORMATION: A diagrammatic sketch showing the Kerguelen and Macquarie island groups and Cape Adare, South Victoria Sound, at all of which places meteorological stations are to be established to link up with the stations of Australia and New Zealand, thus providing a network which will yield regular reports on which weather forecasts might be based. This action was agreed upon at a recent meeting in Melbourne attended by scientists throughout the South-West Pacific. This summer there is to be an Australian Antarctic expedition, which will visit Kerguelen, Macquarie and Cape Adare. With a view to making a reconnaissance as a preliminary to this expedition, an Australian-built Lincoln bomber flew this month from Australia to Macquarie and back, the journey of 2,800 miles taking 14 hours—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

AUSTRALIA'S INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA



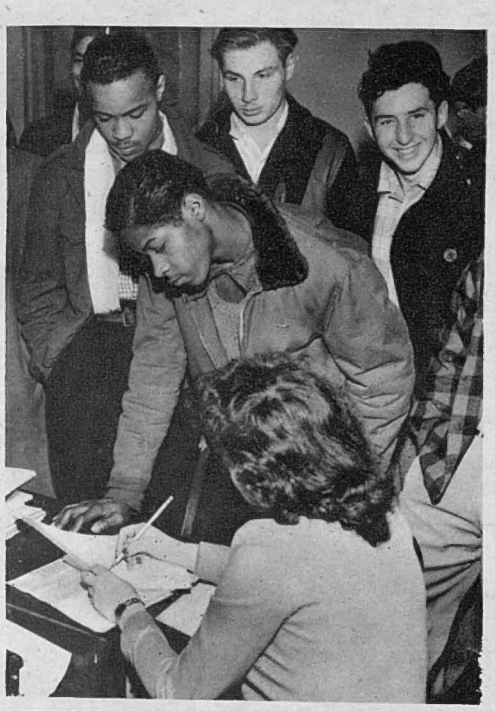
BRITISH, INDIAN AND BURMESE INFANTRY GO INTO ACTION AGAINST THE DACOITS: A diagrammatic sketch of the areas between Rangoon and Mandalay in which the troops of Burma Command are now operating with a view to quelling the robber bands which have for a long while past terrorised the agricultural population. The campaign, under the command of Brigadier Gerrard, has been planned as a full-scale military operation and covers the three large districts of Pegu, Toungoo and Yamethin, in all about 25,000 square miles. The dacoits, who live in jungle hide-outs and roam across the countryside in bands several hundred strong, are armed with automatic weapons and grenades left over from the war. In recent months they have attacked villages, captured river boats and also ambushed trains, their growing lawlessness culminating at the beginning of this month in the wrecking of a train near Thazi, when twenty-eight people were killed, including seven British soldiers. Vigorous measures against dacoits are also being taken generally in other districts, notably in Mandalay — *Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

A NEW BURMA CAMPAIGN

b

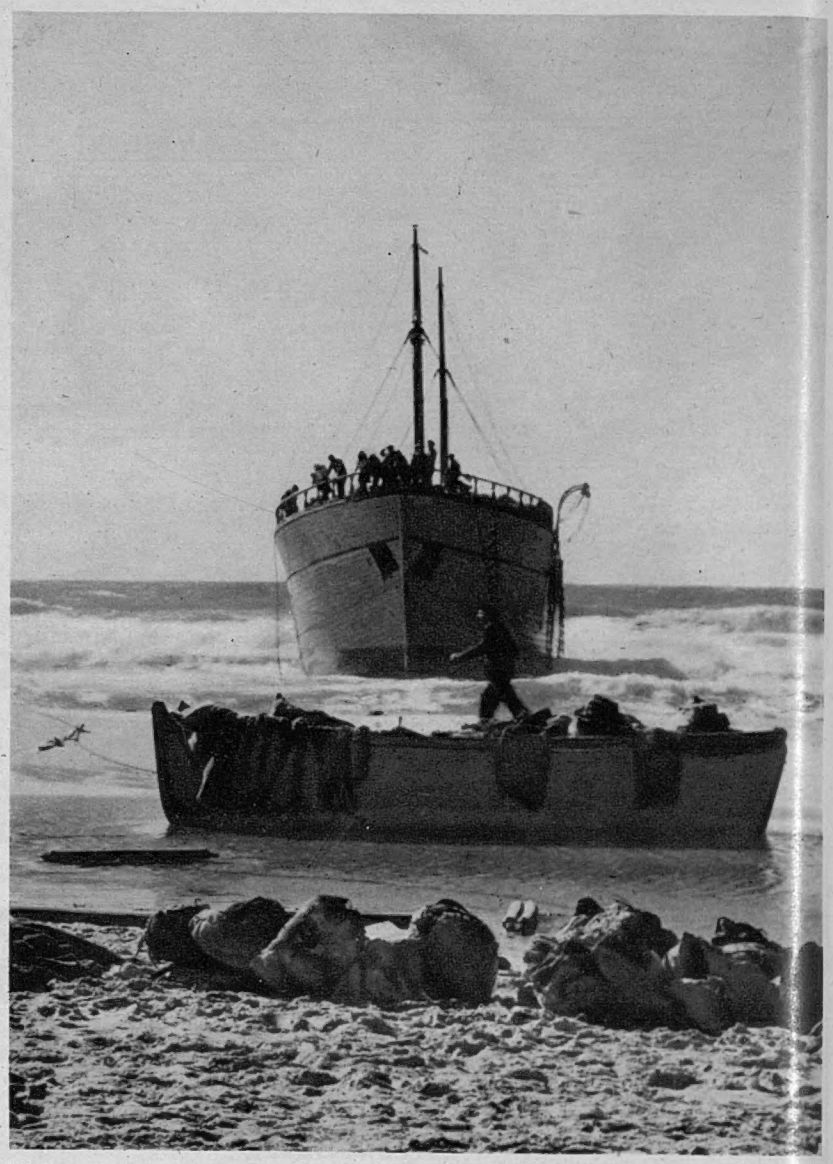
In PALESTINE and the PUNJAB the RACIAL STRUGGLE CONTINUES

AMERICAN-JEWISH VOLUNTEERS MAN THE "BEN HECHT": Captain Levitan (in background) and members of his crew seen on board the converted luxury yacht in which they are reported to have sailed into Haifa Harbour last week with 600 Jewish immigrants on board. The vessel, formerly called the "Abril," and, according to Jewish sources in Tel Aviv, re-named the "Ben Hecht," was chartered by the American League for Free Palestine, most anti-British Jewish organisation in the United States. Ben Hecht, the American playwright, is said to have purchased the vessel and to have financed the journey

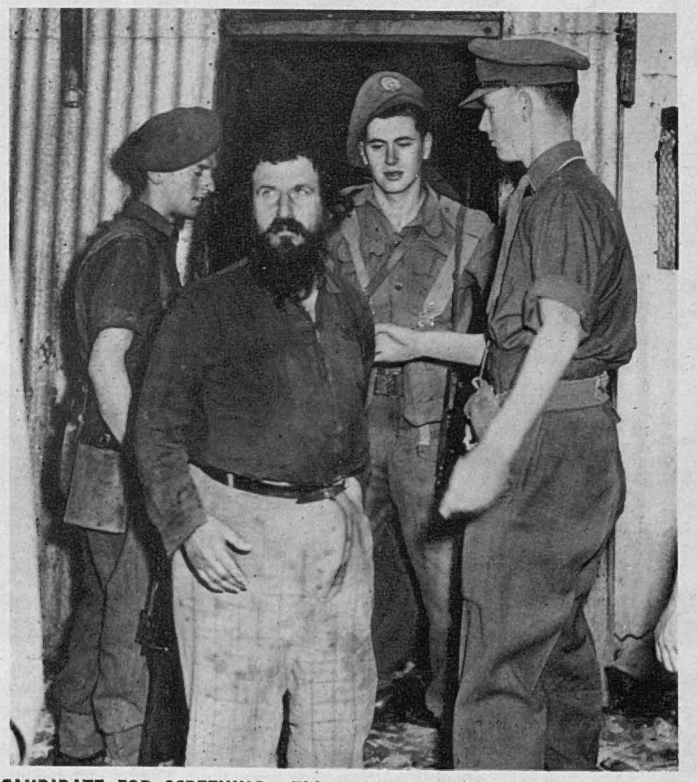


AMERICANS FLOCK TO ENROL: Two negroes among the crowd of volunteers in New York offering to work aboard ships which will be taking Jews to the Promised Land

For months past tidings have reached England that Ben Hecht, the American playwright and scenario writer, has been fitting out a luxury yacht which, manned by an American volunteer crew, would attempt to run illegal Jewish immigrants into Palestine. A fortnight ago a yacht, sailing under the name of *Abril* or *Ben Hecht* (reports differed), was intercepted off Haifa. The 600 immigrants were transhipped for Cyprus, while twenty of the yacht's crew, eighteen of them Americans, were arrested and sent for trial on charges of aiding illegal Jewish immigration. The *Ben Hecht*, it was expected, would be followed to Palestine by other vessels similarly equipped, and meanwhile, in New York, the enrolment of volunteers to man the ships went on apace, 600 reporting immediately after the news of the *Ben Hecht's* interception

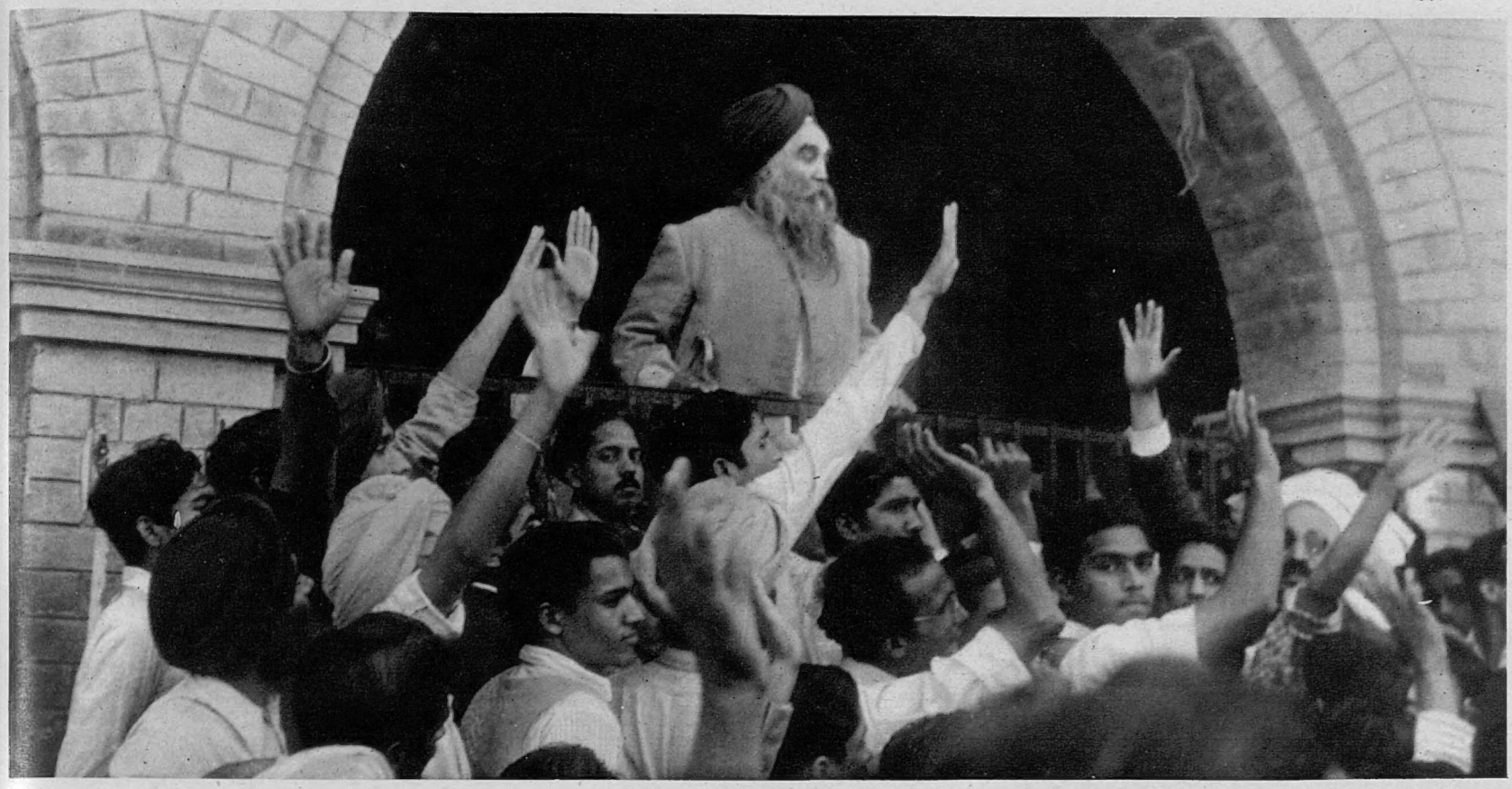


WHERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS MADE A BOLD BID TO RUSH THE SHORE: The 400-ton Jewish immigrant ship "Susanna" on the beach at Isdud, near Gaza. When the *Susanna* (which had come from Italy) was beached, 600 of her 800 passengers streamed ashore and boarded a fleet of buses which, by previous arrangement, were lined up to meet them. Some workers, who saw the buses leaving the spot filled with immigrants, gave the alarm, and finally 560 of the immigrants were arrested and taken to Haifa *en route* for the Cyprus camps. A further 200 passengers, including many pregnant women, were found still aboard the *Susanna*, leaving only thirty or forty Jews still unaccounted for. As the fact that the buses were waiting for the ship indicated a carefully prearranged plan, the company owning the buses was ordered by the G.O.C. to suspend its operations. 50,000 Jews in Southern Palestine were thus left without transport

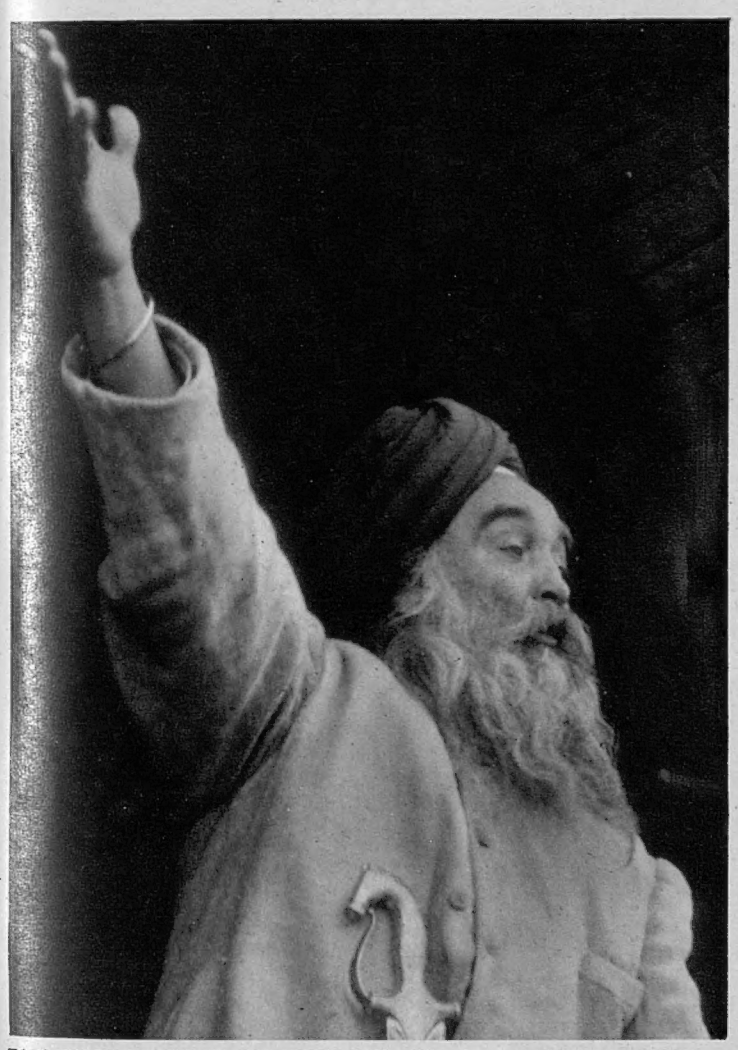


CANDIDATE FOR SCREENING: This patriarchal figure was among the thousands of Jerusalem Jews subjected to military interrogation following the recent raid on the Goldsmith Officers' Club

WHILE MARTIAL LAW WAS IN FORCE THE TERRORISTS STILL REGISTERED THEIR DEFIANCE: The wreckage of a freight train blown up by Jewish bombs near the Arab village of Beit Safafa, five miles south of Jerusalem. The engine and several cars were overturned, while other cars were derailed by the explosion. The driver was killed. The fireman, an Arab, was injured



THIS WAS ANTI-PAKISTAN DAY IN LAHORE : Tara Singh, the bearded leader of the anti-Pakistan Council, addressing his enthusiastic followers in the city, which has been one of the principal centres of communal strife as Hindus and Sikhs have combined together to defeat the political aspirations of the Muslims. At the beginning of last week the rioting died down, but not before over 1,000 deaths were reported from throughout the Punjab and in some areas there had been a state of civil war. The outbreak of violence was a direct result of the prolonged agitation by the Muslim League against the Unionist Coalition Government of the Province, a government in which they had no part. Early this month the Coalition resigned and the Governor assumed administrative powers



TARA SINGH ADDRESSES THE MINORITIES : The leader of the anti-Pakistan Council in Lahore speaking to a gathering of Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and Harihans. He urged defiance of the Muslim League

The great persisting communal conflict of India, in the main the struggle between Hindu and Muslim, but involving a host of minorities, a multitude of sects, has reached a new climax in the tragic March battles which have turned the Province of the Punjab into a battleground. The Muslims, blazing a trail for Pakistan, have clashed in the streets of Lahore, Amritsar and Multan with their Hindu and Sikh rivals, and at the end of three weeks the death-roll in the province was over 1,000. On March 2 the Coalition Government of the Punjab, in which the Muslims had no part, resigned from office, and the Governor, Sir Evan Jenkins, took over the administration as an emergency measure. While Pandit Nehru, and the Governor visited the principal centres of disturbance, the battle spread to distant parts of the province, finding an echo in the foothills of the North-West Frontier, where the Fakir of Ipi, of pre-war notoriety, was reported to be readying himself for the fray. Villages in the Murree Hills have been burned. Muslim mosques and Hindu temples have been torn down, and the whole Province has become the scene of a major tragedy

IN A WRECKED QUARTER OF AMRITSAR : Muslim police on guard after the tide of battle had flowed through this part of the city. For days all business in Lahore was at a standstill. Most shops were closed and workers refused to venture out for fear of molestation

AFGHAN TRADERS FLEE FROM THE CITY OF AMRITSAR : Carrying their few belongings with them, the Afghans head for the railway station in the hope of escaping from the scene of communal rioting. The booking offices and platforms were besieged, but only a very few people managed to board trains before being caught up in the renewed strife

HOW RUSSIA TRAINED STALINGRAD PRISONERS

Giving Them a New Outlook to Take Back to Germany

By FERDINAND TUOHY

THE Moscow exchanges had barely got under way before the totals of German prisoners still held by each of the four came under discussion. Round numbers suffice for present purposes, and here they are: U.S.S.R., 890,000; France, 630,000; Britain, 435,000; United States, 31,000. Less than 2,000,000 all told. Biggest shock was to the Germans, who for some time have claimed to be awaiting 3,000,000 prisoners from Russia alone.

How the detaining countries feel with respect to their prisoners varies.

The French have absorbed theirs well and truly into the man-starved economy. They don't want any politics from them, just hard work on equal pay and conditions to other workers. Nearly all were "lent" by the Americans, and under a sensible arrangement the latter have agreed that as many as provenly wish to remain in France shall do so.

As badly needed by Britain are the great majority of her prisoners, who work on the land; but right-thinking circles combat a continuation on the score that it would be a reversion to pre-Wilberforce days, so all our Germans should be back in Germany by the end of 1948 whether they like it or not. In the meantime a picking of them have been gently introduced to British institutions in the hope that they may be good democrats and object lessons in the future.

The Americans have one desire, which is to be rid of their Germans at the earliest moment, all, that is to say, save specialists, to whom we shall revert.

What the Russians have done, are doing, and propose to do with their German prisoners has, apparently, been nobody's business. Now—one or two things. Either their huge bulletins of captured, as issued during the war, are to be regarded, historically, as *ruses de guerre*, or they should have something to say concerning the enormous gulf between the captured aggregate they announced, which ran into millions, and the few hundred thousand who have been returned to Germany, plus the 890,000 announced as still being held.

So eminently a military subject as the disposal or fate of prisoners of war should hardly lapse from the agenda of delegates having such a soldierly leavening.

There is one aspect, in particular, to which, I cannot help thinking, the Foreign Ministers will eventually come round. They can hardly avoid it, for right in the centre of this prisoner imbroglio is Von Paulus's "Free Germany" Movement into which an unknown number of German prisoners of—shall we say—the more positive type have been drawn, and which seems to be going as strongly as when it surprised outside observers by its quick and sure growth in 1944.

I know I was surprised by those first broadcasts from Moscow in the preceding autumn by Generals Daniels and Seydlitz. Remembering our failures with Hess, Thoma and others, how had the Russians got them to do it? Jolly good show, anyway! The assumption, of course, having been that the Russians were using their Stalingrad prisoners most astutely to spread defeatism among the Wehrmacht still desperately fighting, and that, once victory achieved, the puppets would become real prisoners of war, Russian style, and that would have been that.

What none of us in the West realised at that time was the degree of discord and antipathy that had come to divide Hitler from the Army—his last ravings in his bunker showed matters at their flood. And what very few realised was the continuing attraction of the *Ostloesung* to German military minds—the solution through the East. A school of army thought had long advocated a link-up with Russia, leading to joint domination of Europe at the least, and the idea had made headway ever since hundreds of German officers had gone to train the first coherent Red Army in 1928.

We move to to-day.

Thousands of "Stalingrad" prisoners have been returned to Germany, after having been thoroughly indoctrinated by the Russians, and from their talk it has been possible to establish the imagination that the Russians applied to their form of German "re-education"—for, stripped of verbiage, that is what it amounts to.

After a hard core of bitterly disillusioned officers and picked men had been sieved to form the nucleus of "Free Germany," special "Stalingrad" prison camps were set up, whose inmates received excellent medical care, and if they chose to work, fine winter clothing and three hot meals a day, usually a nourishing broth that made the Russian guards sniff.

The Russians were as business-like, psychologically. They made direct appeal to the German officer caste system. They did not require the officers to surrender their insignia and uniforms, and they insisted that Other Ranks should salute and obey their superiors. Concerning indoctrination, the Russians took care not to "sell" Communism, and this accounts for the number of anti-Communists, including Army chaplains, who not only joined "Free Germany," but became committee members. Communism was kept in the background. Instead, the Germans were nourished on *Ostloesung* stuff. The historic move by Bismarck to cultivate friendly relations with Russia, and later the attempt along the same lines made by General von Seeckt, pre-Hitler chief of the Reichswehr, were cited with persuasive effect.

In due course the most reliable converts were directed to Germany in two guises. One selection was given administrative posts in the Soviet Zone of Occupation. A second layer was sent to the other zones, there to spread what they themselves had evidently come to believe: that Germany's only future resides in genuine collaboration with the U.S.S.R. A third sifting was, and is, retained in Russia. The mission of these converts lies in the other German prisoners' camps, where they act as "cells" to win over more adherents to "Free Germany."

How many Germans are so far involved is anybody's guess, but one recalls the song and dance the Russians made of the release of 120,000 German prisoners last year, able-bodied for the first time, full of money, well fed and clothed, and even their wives brought to Berlin to meet them.

Direction of the movement, in Russia, has passed to Major-General Otto Korfes, one-time Goettingen professor, and how he feels about things may be gauged from a message that he recently caused to be communicated to his relatives in the American Zone. "Everything is going all right in every way." Seydlitz, Junker descendant of Frederick the Great's famous Von Seydlitz, continues at headquarters. Paulus lives in a villa outside Moscow, whence he writes to his wife, who is at Baden-Baden, in the French Zone. He exerts less weight because he would insist on clinging to Hitler's orders to take Stalingrad at all costs.

The effect of "Free Germany," then, is currently twofold. It furthers the idea among Germans that Russia welcomes a strong, centralised Germany, though nothing is said about such a Germany being in the same relationship to Moscow as is the present Warsaw Government. And it conserves the last organised remnant of the German Army, a remnant which might serve as the nucleus of another Reichswehr, even of another "Stahlhelm," which bound together well over 1,000,000 German ex-Servicemen in the late '20's and early '30's.

That the Russians are running a risk goes without saying. Who wouldn't, in toying with Germans at this stage, indeed at any stage? These indoctrinated Germans might offer themselves to the West in the hope that by so doing they would speed the new war which so many Germans see as their way up from the pit. At the least, the returned "Free Germany" men cannot fail to be affected by the powerful anti-Russian sentiments which are widespread in Germany.

On the other hand, our Muscovite friends are no fools in these matters, but long-calculating heads, and hereabouts they are calculating on the gradual break-up of Europe, as it has existed down the centuries on a property basis, under a sustained, ever-lapping, ever-leaping war of nerves, a wearing down of opposites without a shooting match. (I feel like crying out "Hi-de-ho. I-de-ologies!" Away with them.)

When peace is signed, all prisoners are supposed to be returned to their countries of origin. That may be one reason the Russians are dragging out the peace negotiations. They may want more time in which to sow the seeds of "Free Germany" in their prisoners' camps. Since "everything is going all right in every way."

Meanwhile, they can always charge that others, the British, are building up military formations out of Germans. They even broadcast latterly that we were shipping a German unit from Wesermuende to fight colonial troubles. It all helps to defend, to protect what is going on under General Korfes.

With more truth can they broadcast that we and the Americans are using German scientists and military experts to devise better and better means of human extermination. What a showing up, what a total lack of trust from the first, that the co-victors over Hitlerism should have forthwith engaged in a snatch-as-snatch can for such German brains, instead of liquidating them in banishment! But that was too much to expect of human nature 1947.

The Americans have taken 600 such German brains back to the United States, and they are taking more from their zone for fear the Russians should snatch them, as they have already snatched so many from the western zones.

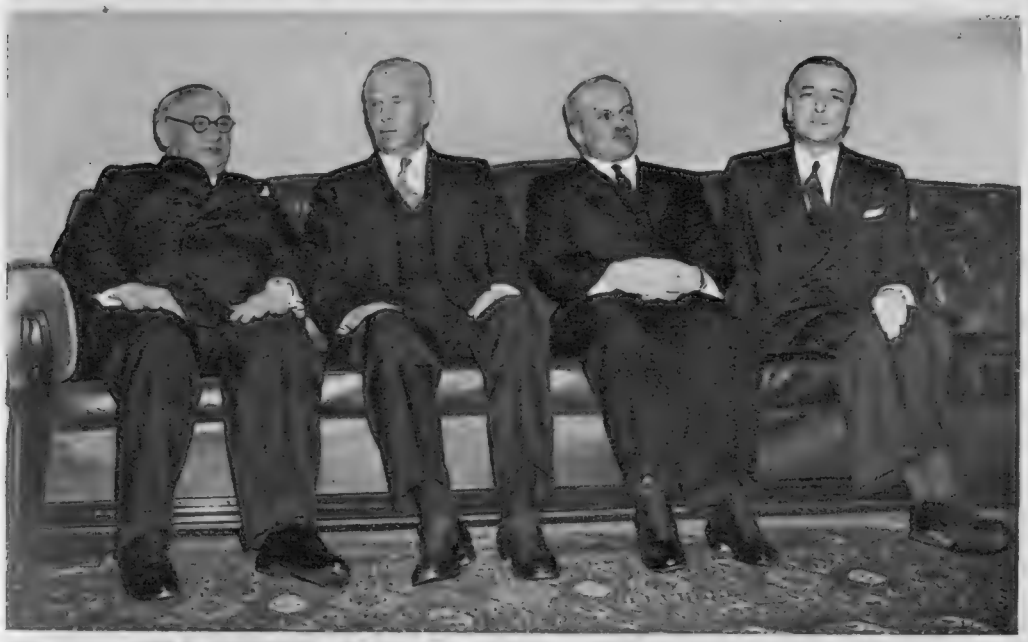
Nevertheless, the Russians are the first and, so far, the only ones, deliberately to make use of the supposedly defunct German Army. The case is clearly made out, and the files are in front of General Marshall, in particular.

RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN BERLIN: General Kotikow, Soviet Commander in the Berlin Zone, greeting Pechstein (right), the German artist, at the "Home of Culture of the Soviet Union." "The Home of Culture" occupies the former Prussian Financial Ministry, and every German interested in Russia is encouraged to use the information room and inspect the exhibits. In Saxony Russian influence has spread rapidly through the dividing up of the estates, but Berliners are more slowly influenced and mindful, still, of the opposing propaganda pushed so relentlessly in Goebbels' hey-day

UNDER SOVIET PATRONAGE—GERMAN WOMEN ORGANISE FOR WORLD PEACE: Dr. Annie Durand-Wever, the President, and Frau Edith Hauser, the Vice-President, seen with Mrs. Satulla (right), a Russian woman writer, after their election to leadership of the German Democratic Women in the Russian Zone. The organization's Congress for Peace lasted three days, from March 7 to March 9, and indicated that German women are beginning to lose their apathy and take an interest in world affairs

THE "BIG FOUR" AND THEIR COLLEAGUES MEET AT AVIATION HOUSE, NORTH MOSCOW: **This was the scene at the opening of the Moscow Conference, the momentous gathering at which will be decided the settlements for both Austria and Germany.** Towards the left sit Andrei Vishinsky (in diplomatic uniform) and Mr Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Towards the right is General Marshall, the U.S. Foreign Minister. Mr. Bevin and M. Bidault and their colleagues both have their backs to the camera

WITH THE "BIG FOUR" IN MOSCOW



THE "BIG FOUR" TOGETHER: **Mr. Bevin, General Marshall, Mr. Molotov and M. Bidault seen at the start of their vital meetings. Mr. Bevin was celebrating his sixty-sixth birthday, and Mr. Molotov was fifty-seven on the same day**

THE SOVIET LEADERS: **Mr. Vishinsky, in his diplomatic uniform, and Mr. Molotov, in his now familiar astrakhan hat, leaving Aviation House after one of the first meetings. The opening exchanges were markedly friendly**

WITH NO CLEAR MANDATE: **M. Bidault, the French Foreign Secretary, leaving Aviation House. His Government, very much at the mercy of the dominant French Communist Party, was unable to give him a clear briefing**

WITH A VERY DEFINITE MISSION: **General Marshall (centre) was paying his first visit to Russia since accompanying Franklin Roosevelt to Yalta, and this was his first mission as Secretary of State. His arrival coincided with Mr. Truman's momentous statement on Turkey and Greece, and American foreign policy at least was in no possible doubt as the delegates set about their task**

About fifteen minutes by car from Central Moscow is the Aero Club of the officers of the Soviet Air Force. Aviation House, a massive grey building, was in pre-Revolutionary days the city's most expensive restaurant. Last month, with new decorations and new carpets, it was specially prepared for the meeting of the "Big Four" which is deciding the fate of Austria and Germany. The opening exchanges at the meeting presented no great difficulties, the agenda having been prepared with a view to a smooth start, and even President Truman's world-shaking statement in faraway Washington on the future of Greece and Turkey did not at once disturb the calm of the proceedings. In the Kremlin, however, there were repeatedly urgent meetings, continuing into the early hours. It was obvious, too, that there were shoals ahead, and on March 17 Mr. Molotov was outspoken in his denunciation of the Anglo-American zone fusion in Germany, calling for its annulment in no uncertain terms and declaring it was a violation of the Potsdam Agreement

THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCE PLANS A DEVELOPMENT IN ARTILLERY WARFARE: Dropping a howitzer from a C-82 Fairchild transport plane as a means of reinforcing ground troops. This picture, taken from a neighbouring machine, shows a small ribbon-extraction parachute pulling a howitzer from the open rear door of the Fairchild's cargo compartment. The howitzer moves easily across the floor of the plane as it is loaded on a ball-bearing conveyor. When the howitzer is pulled clear of the compartment, a large 90-ft. parachute blossoms out, and, as depicted on right, the two 'chutes lower their heavy burden to the ground. These tests were conducted recently over Wright Field, Ohio, where so many U.S. Army experiments are made, by Air Material Command, and it seems that they were completely successful. From a tactical point of view, the idea offers enormous advantages, enabling infantry which have been parachuted far beyond their lines to receive swift artillery support

A Foreign Survey

NEWS FROM THREE CONTINENTS

AN AMERICAN HOWITZER FLOATS INTO ACTION: Supported at one end by its ribbon-extraction parachute and centrally by its main parachute, the piece glides gently to earth

POPE PIUS XII CELEBRATES THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PONTIFICATE: His Holiness, wearing the crown which he accepts at his coronation and dons on special anniversaries, being carried through the Ducal Hall of the Vatican to the Sistine Chapel, where a service of thanksgiving was held. The Pope has also just celebrated his seventy-first birthday, and as usual he received visits from various members of the Vatican's Diplomatic Corps. To mark the occasion, the band of the Swiss Guards gave a special performance in the Vatican Palace courtyard

BULGARIA'S PREMIER HAD A DATE AT AN ART GALLERY: Georgi Dimitrov, the Communist leader who first gained fame at the Reichstag fire trial, seen with Bulgaria's impressionist painter, the midget Pavlov, at a recent exhibition in Sofia. Dimitrov, seldom long absent from the news, has since the close of the war been the most powerful figure in Bulgaria. At first he accepted no office, but last November assumed the Premiership in a Communist-dominated Government. At one time Dimitrov was head of the Comintern in Moscow

MARGARET TRUMAN MAKES HER DEBUT AS A VOCALIST : The daughter of the President of the United States after her successful radio performance. Miss Truman has been training for over two years, and American critics declare she is first-rate. Since this first performance she has been offered numerous contracts

UNITS OF ADMIRAL BYRD'S ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION ARRIVE IN NEW ZEALAND : The Admiral's flagship, "Mount Olympus," alongside the wharf at Wellington, North Island. In the centre of the harbour is the United States Coastguard Cutter "Northwind," which played a vital part in cutting a way through the pack-ice for the supply ships of the expedition. Away on the left is the "Burton Island." This was Admiral Byrd's eighth visit to New Zealand and followed the triumphant conclusion of his latest expedition, which has led to the mapping of many hitherto unknown portions of the Antarctic continent

RELATIVES OF MARSHAL FOCH FORGATHER AT THE INVALIDES : A service in memory of the Allied Generalissimo of the First World War. In the centre of the picture is the Marshal's aged widow, who is seen about to shake hands with General Henri Rhodes, the Governor of the Invalides, where Foch was buried in 1929 in circumstances of great pomp. On the left is Mrs. Fournier-Foch, one of the Marshal's daughters, and Mrs. Dencourt-Foch, another daughter, is seen on the right (wearing veil)

VALENCIA ELECTS THE QUEEN OF THE FALLAS : Señorita Amaparito Casanova seated among the ladies of her Court after being elected for the year 1947. The election is held annually before St. Joseph's Day, and is associated with the colourful procession of floats or fallas which takes place through the streets of the city on the day itself. At the end of the day the floats are burnt in the centre of Valencia, with the vital exception of one given the first prize in the public voting. When this picture was taken the Queen of the Fallas was paying a visit to Madrid to invite the Government and the municipal authorities to attend the Valencia celebrations

RESCUE PARTIES REACH THE DAKOTA WRECK IN THE SAVOY ALPS : The search party equipped with skis made their way from the village of Chateaubernard, on the Vercors Plateau. The plane, which had been flying on the regular route from Nice to Paris, hit the mountainside in a dense mist at a height of 7,000 ft. There were eighteen passengers, mostly American and French, and a crew of five, all of whom were killed. Not all the bodies were found at once, as it appears that the plane crash caused an avalanche, and this undoubtedly led to some of the victims being buried under many feet of snow

PARIS NEWSPAPERS REAPPEAR AFTER AN ABSENCE OF FIVE WEEKS : Daily papers awaiting distribution in the Croissant district on the first morning of sale. None of the twenty-three dailies had appeared for thirty-three days, and some were beginning to feel the financial strain

THE THAMES, EXCEEDING THE RECORD LEVELS OF 1894, SPREADS FAR AND WIDE ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE AS A RESULT OF THE GREAT
ON THE MAIN OXFORD-GLOUCESTER HIGHWAY: The normal course of the river is down the centre of the picture, and this was one of several points where the

FLOODS IN ENGLAND

While the Thames flowed swiftly and smoothly by in Central London, held in check by the massive embankment walls, there were scenes of acute distress last week in many parts of the Thames Valley, and from Windsor to Weybridge there was a vast, continuous lake from which Army "Ducks" and Sherman tanks had to rescue the marooned. At Windsor, Maidenhead, and Reading conditions were really serious, with large-scale evacuations taking place. On March 19 there was a 20-m.p.h. torrent sweeping through Maidenhead High Street. While the Thames Valley was the scene of the most spectacular flooding and the greatest number of people were involved, the Severn, the Ouse, and many other rivers were also in spate, persisting rain having added to the floodwaters brought down by the thaw. The Severn was flooded from Newtown, Montgomeryshire, to Shrewsbury, and in Fenland troops were employed in blowing up minor dykes in order to divert the floodwaters from newly-threatened areas. The Automobile Association reported last week that apart from main roads in Kent, there was no county in England and Wales where the roads were not affected to some extent either by snow, floods or fallen trees.

THE RIVER OUSE POURING OVER ITS EMBANKMENT NEAR ELY—WATER INVADING THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE TO ADD STILL FURTHER TO THE DEPTH OF A VAST FLOODED AREA: Although hundreds of fenmen, troops and prisoners of war fought through a whole night to repair breaches and build up the embankments, the swollen river overflowed at many points, notably at Haddenham, West River Bridge, Little Thetford and at Over, near the Huntingdonshire border. Thousands of acres of Britain's most fertile land have been inundated, the very areas where our vital wheat crop for 1947 would have been raised. Dairy farmers in some cases were hard put to it to save their cattle, so swiftly did the floodwaters make new breaches in the crumbling defences

THAW AND SUBSEQUENT RAINS—THIS DRAMATIC PICTURE, TYPIFYING CONDITIONS IN MANY PARTS OF THE THAMES VALLEY, WAS TAKEN NEAR SWINFORD BRIDGE, water was over a mile wide. At Maidenhead the water was very nearly 6 ft. deep in parts of the town, and at Reading over 1,000 people had to be evacuated

THE FLOODWATERS AT WINDSOR AND ETON—THE CASTLE ON ITS HIGH GROUND WAS IMMUNE, BUT THE COLLEGE BUILDINGS NEAR THE RIVER WERE EVACUATED AND THE 1,100 BOYS SENT HOME: At one time last week the Mayor of Windsor had to send out an S O S for more Army "Ducks" to help in the rescue operations. Supplies of both milk and bread began to run short in Windsor, and the local communal feeding centres had to commandeer goods

A NEW BEACON OF THE SOUTH COAST: An artist's impression of the Owers Light vessel, which, with its many modern features, has been built to replace the earlier vessel illustrated below. The Owers Light stands 10 miles off Selsey Bill and is one of the best-known seamarks of the English Channel. The new ship has a beacon tower and the light develops 300,000 candle-power. New amenities, including showers, are provided for the crew—*Drawing by W. G. Whitaker*

THE LANTERN OF ONE OF BRITAIN'S NEW LIGHT VESSELS: The lamp develops 300,000 candle-power and is firmly mounted on a central beacon tower

SHIPS NEW AND OLD

Replacing the Light Vessels: The "Victoria and Albert" Becomes a Houseboat: A Century in the Bristol Channel

In 1731 the first British lightship took station off the Nore Sand. To-day these vital navigation marks surround our coasts, some of them automatic, being lit and extinguished by the action of the sun, and many of them manned. During the War the lightships were attacked by the Luftwaffe, and Trinity House, which is responsible for their maintenance, is now replacing them with new, more efficient and more commodious craft. These are being built at Dartmouth, and, as the pictures on this page show, represent a marked advance over their predecessors

THE NEW OWERS LIGHT IS PAINTED PILLAR-BOX RED: The vessel seen at Dartmouth after completion and ready to take post in the English Channel off Selsey Bill. The ship has ample accommodation for the crew, with more deck cabins than her predecessor

THE OLD TYPE OF LIGHTSHIP NOW BEING REPLACED: In this case the central beacon could be raised and lowered on the mainmast. Ships of this type were far from comfortable for the crews, and the new vessels constructed at Dartmouth are in every way superior

On right—**A HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG: The veteran sailing-vessel "Enid," of Barnstaple, at her moorings in Swansea, where she has lately been undergoing a refit.** Nearly a century has passed since the 100-ton sailing-ship *Enid* slid down the builder's slipway at Milford Haven. During the whole period the vessel has been owned and sailed by members of the Chichester family, the present skipper being Roland Chichester, who succeeds his father and grandfather. Roland, who is seen aboard his vessel, has spent the last thirty years afloat. He tells of the unbroken service of the ship principally between Barnstaple and Swansea, carrying such cargoes as grain, fertilisers and coal. The *Enid* is also chartered sometimes by the monks of Caldy Island for the shipment to the mainland of bullocks and other cattle, an operation which necessitates the beaching of *Enid* and hard work for the monks and men of the crew. Thirty bullocks have been handled at one shipment. *Enid* has stood up remarkably well to the Bristol Channel storms. She is built of odd lengths of teak, bought from the Government for "next-to-nothing"

NO LONGER SEAWORTHY, THE KING'S YACHT IS TO BECOME A HOUSEBOAT : The "Victoria and Albert," which was launched in 1899 and completed at a cost of £572,000, is to remain moored in Portsmouth Harbour and will doubtless serve as a residence for the Royal Family when they visit Cowes or on any other occasion when they are in the Portsmouth area. When on May 15 the "Victoria and Albert" passes into the charge of the Commodore of Naval Barracks she will have a skeleton staff of servants. During the visit of the Royal Family to South Africa the Royal quarters in "Vanguard" have been equipped with furniture from the Royal yacht

THE LAUNCH OF THE "CARDIFF QUEEN" : A new paddle-steamer takes the water from the yard of the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company at Govan. Paddle-steamers continue to be in demand for pleasure cruising. This one will go into the service of P. and A. Campbell, particularly well known to holiday-makers in the Bristol Channel area. Before the war their day trips between Newport, Cardiff, Bristol, and such resorts as Weston and Ilfracombe were all conducted by paddle-steamer

A FRENCH TRAWLER IS DRIVEN ASHORE OFF THE SOUTH COAST : The 90-ton fishing vessel "Martial" seen after she had grounded at Langney Point, near Eastbourne. As the vessel was driven ashore the crew jumped to safety. Later on the same day local Customs officials went aboard to make investigations

ZULUS ARRIVE AT LADYSMITH TO ROAR A WELCOME TO THE ROYAL FAMILY—A SCENE NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION AS THE WARRIORS AND THEIR WIVES, WITH TAIL COSTUMES, MARCHED TOWARDS THE PARADE-GROUND: This was one of the most colourful gatherings so far witnessed by the King and Queen, as in their earlie in last week's "Sphere," the native chieftains insisted on wearing European dress. Since the rebellion of 1906, the Zulus have curbed their warlike qualities, l

EXAMPLES OF THE ZULU'S FLAIR FOR ADORNMENT: The young woman on the right has string after string of beads round her throat, beads at the waist, beads below the knee, and beads at her ankles. Her skirt is a length of curtain material. In her hand she carries a stick which has helped her on the trek

Native Greetings on the Royal Tour

ZULUS and BASUTOS FLOCK TO SEE THE KING

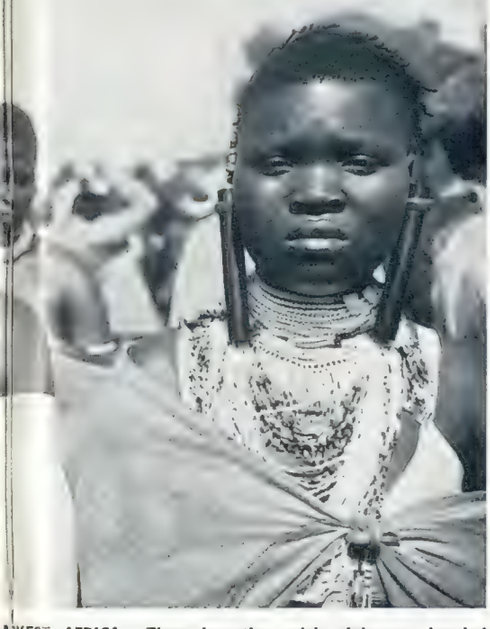
When the King and Queen and the Princesses visited Zululand and Basutoland they entered upon by far the most picturesque phase of the tour. The pictures on these pages show some of the native peoples, gorgeous in their finery, who flocked into Maseru, Ladybrand and Ladysmith to add their loyal greetings to those previously given by the peoples of the Transkei and the Ciskei. Basutoland, still governed from Whitehall, is essentially a black man's country, with no competition between European and Bantu for the possession of land, and in this happy atmosphere, so remote from industrial preoccupations, the Royal Family spent two exacting days which must have given an immensity of local satisfaction

THE BICYCLE PUMP HAS A NEW USE IN DARKE collars, were among the thousands of Zulu and Princesses at Ladysmith. Two of the

THE MISSIONARY-SCHOOLED BASUTO CHILDREN OF LADYBRAND VOICE A WELCOME blouses and blue school frocks, singing the National Anthem as the King a Royal party left the Union of South Africa; for Basutoland is governed by a to Pretoria. Most of the children of Basutoland are mission-taught, but the ma

ITH CEREMONIAL SHIELDS, UMBRELLAS AND MONKEY-
lier visits to the Transkei and the Ciskei, illustrated
, but their love of finery still has the fullest play

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A "STUPENDOUS" SAM GOLDWYN PRODUCTION! Basutos, riding their mountain ponies in a swirling cloud of dust, arrive on the *pitso* ground at Maseru, Basutoland, where multitudes of horsemen gathered to meet the Royal Family. Most of the riders wore the picturesque blanket which the Basuto seldom discards even on days when the temperature is hovering around 90 degrees



AIKEST AFRICA: These beauties, with elaborate beaded
ulu people who came to greet the King and Queen
the girls have portions of bicycle pump as ear-rings

ME TO THE ROYAL VISITORS: Basuto girls, in white
and Queen arrived. Here for the first time the
y a High Commissioner responsible to Whitehall and not
majority of the mission schools are Government-aided

A ZULU QUARTETTE AT LADYSMITH: Four native women who provided an impressive spectacle in their varied finery. The Zulus travelled miles across the countryside in order to see the Royal Family, but, after the march, they did not seem to be fatigued unduly by the not inconsiderable weight of their finery

LONDON'S NEW ART SENSATION

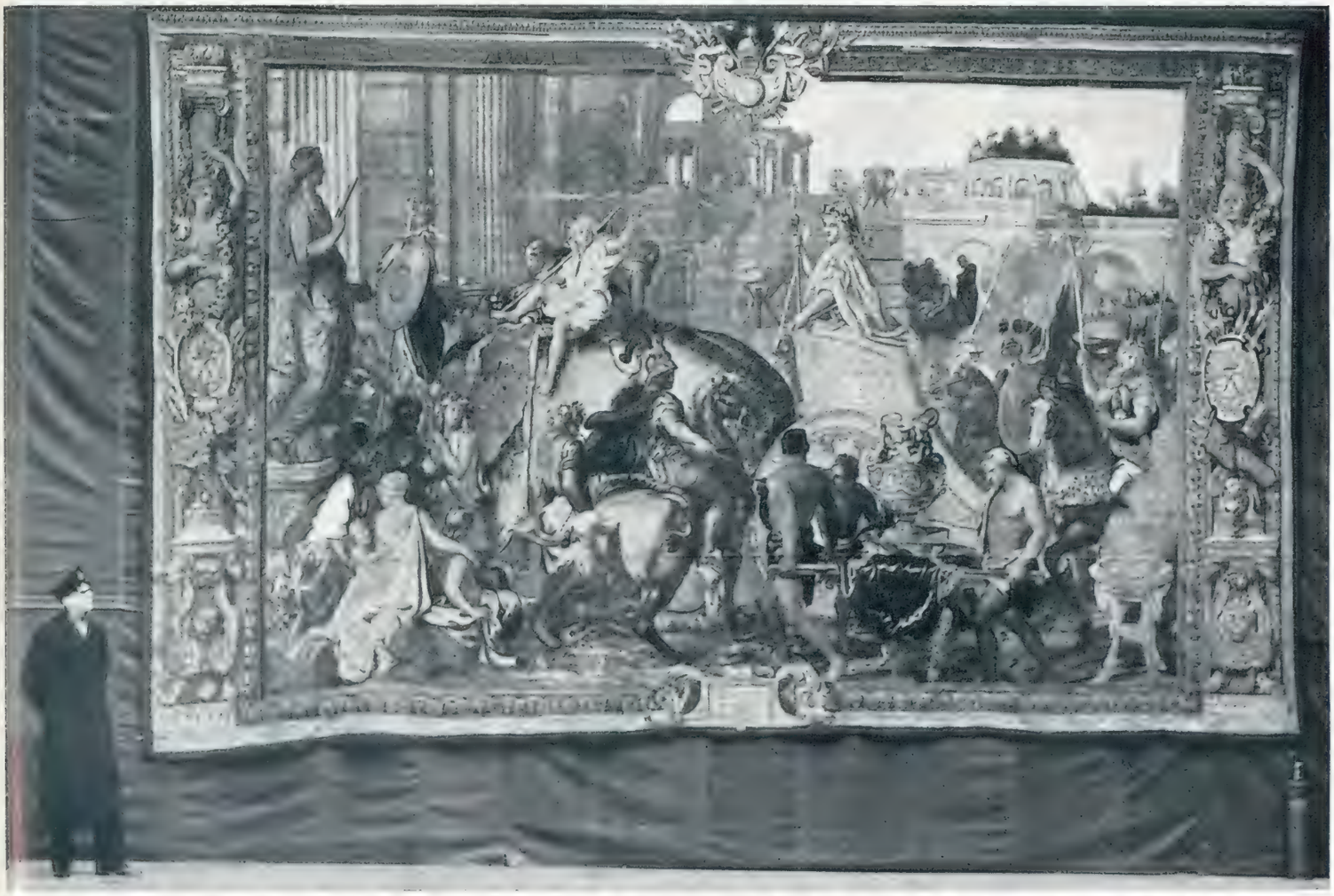
After the King's Pictures, the French Tapestry Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum

THE GREAT TAPESTRIES OF THE LOIRE: Some of the magnificent works of the late fifteenth century, known as "Mille Fleurs" by reason of the floral ground motif, seen at the French Tapestry Exhibition which opens to-day (Saturday) at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The Exhibition comprises in all 145 pieces

The Exhibition of the King's Pictures at Burlington House and the Spanish Art Exhibition at the National Gallery have both been highlights in the art world of 1947, and now comes the great French Tapestry Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the public view of which starts to-day following yesterday's private view. The Exhibition, which was seen in Paris last year and part of which may later go on to New York, contains 100 historic tapestries and forty contemporary examples. Many of the tapestries come from the famous Louis XIV collection in the Louvre, while the remarkable series of the "Life of the Virgin" is in the possession of Rheims Cathedral. The Rheims tapestries have never before left France. Probably the greatest master of the tapestry cartoon was Lebrun, who carried on the Gobelins tradition under Louis XIV, and this period is well represented at the Exhibition. Lebrun, with incredible skill, assembled the work of several painters in one cartoon, each a specialist in his particular genre, and yet he contrived to produce a harmonious whole. The modern panels at the Exhibition show the present revival of tapestry-weaving in France.

"THE LADY OF THE UNICORN" HANGS IN A PLACE OF HONOUR: M. Pierre Verlet, of the Louvre, Mr. Philip James, of the Arts Council, and Mr. G. Wingfield Digby, head of the Department of Textiles, Victoria and Albert Museum, supervising the positioning of the famous tapestry, one of a series which came from the Castle of Boussac and now belongs to the Cluny Museum in Paris. "The Lady of the Unicorn" was probably woven in the Loire area about the year 1510. Together with the other tapestries in the present exhibition it was on view at a special exhibition in Paris last summer. The style differs markedly from the historic set-pieces made by Lebrun

"THE FINDING OF MOSES," DESIGNED BY SIMON VOUET: An elaborate tapestry typical of the manner prevailing in the mid-seventeenth century. Vouet was principal painter to Louis XIII, and so great a favourite was he that the King became his art pupil. He exercised a despotic influence over the French School



PERFECTION IN EVERY LINE—ONE OF THE MAGNIFICENT GOBELINS WOVEN BY CHARLES LEBRUN FOR LOUIS XIV: This tapestry, an outstanding work in the exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, depicts "The Triumph of Alexander" on his entry into Jerusalem. Superb alike in its colouring and design, it typifies the art of Lebrun, who, in the reign of Louis XIV, the golden age of French art, inspired and directed the factory which had been founded in the reign of Henry IV by the Gobelin brothers. It was under Lebrun, too, that the factory became a Royal Institution, producing a series of "cartoons" dealing with the leading events of Louis' reign. "The Triumph of Alexander" was included in the Louis XIV Tercentenary Exhibition in Paris

TWO MORE EXAMPLES OF SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY TAPESTRY-WORK: One of a set entitled "The History of Artomesia" (left) and "The Legend of St. Mammes," who tamed the wild beasts (right). These tapestries show comparatively few signs of wear, which is remarkable when it is considered the extent to which they travelled. Wherever Louis XIV moved, his tapestries went with him, and when he tired of one set he would relegate it to the use of the Princes and acquire another set. Sometimes the tapestries served as decorations for fêtes, and it was not uncommon for them to be left unprotected in the open air

HOW A JET ENGINE WORKS

The Basic Principle Explained in a Series of Diagrammatic Drawings

Jet propulsion, now firmly established and on its way to revolutionising fast air travel, is not as yet widely understood, and it is the popular view that it is the blast that drives the plane forward. This is not so. It is also not true that the drawing in of air in front of the machine causes a forward movement.

The simple basic facts are these. The propelling force is produced and thrusts the plane forward entirely by action within the engine itself. A continuous burning takes place in the combustion chamber of the jet engine when air, drawn in and compressed, mixes with fuel to form a combustible gas. The resultant thrust has four main directions. The upward and downward thrusts cancel out. The rearward thrust is dissipated, finding an immediate outlet through the exhaust. The forward thrust is alone effective, and the continuous combustion within the chamber causes the plane to travel rapidly forward.

The "explosion point" is really an internal fulcrum against which the forward thrust lever can work. The forward thrust pushes out from this explosion point, and is unable to push back this centre of energy. As no external fulcrum is necessary, it can be readily understood that a jet engine likes a thin atmosphere. As it moves forward as a result of a series of "internal thrusts," which, of course, succeed each other with rhythmic rapidity, it naturally gathers pace in the stratosphere, where it meets less resistance.

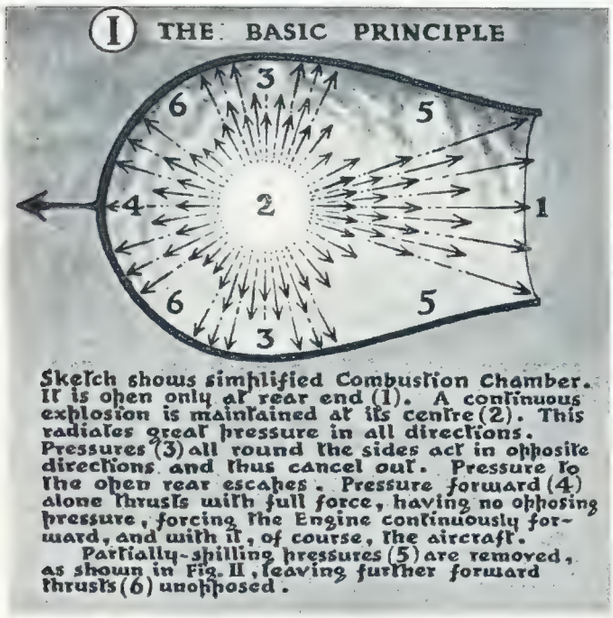
So much for the basic facts. These are illustrated in diagrams 1 and 2 on this page. Diagrams 3 to 7 show the various components of the jet engine and also the completed engine, in this instance the powerful Nene produced by Rolls-Royce, one of the great pioneers of jet propulsion. The Nene, which weighs 1,550 lbs. and has a static thrust of 5,000 lbs., represents a marked advance over the Derwent used in the record-breaking Meteors. The comparative simplicity of the jet engine compared with the large-sized commercial piston engine is at once apparent. The development of the engine has, indeed, been dependent in the main upon such points as the provision of alloys able to withstand the great temperatures involved, and not upon any obstacles in basic design.

Two Nene gas-turbine power-units have already been fitted in outboard positions in the experimental Avro Lancastrian air-liner, which has two Merlin engines inboard. The Lancastrian flies comfortably on jet power alone, with its inboard Merlins feathered, and it is to be hoped that the information obtained from its operational flights will lead to the installation of jets in all our air-liners. Those who have flown in the Lancastrian declare that the noiseless comfort of jet travel is a revelation. There is also an almost entire absence of vibration. Small, pure-jet military aircraft are also providing valuable information on the operation of gas-turbine power-units.

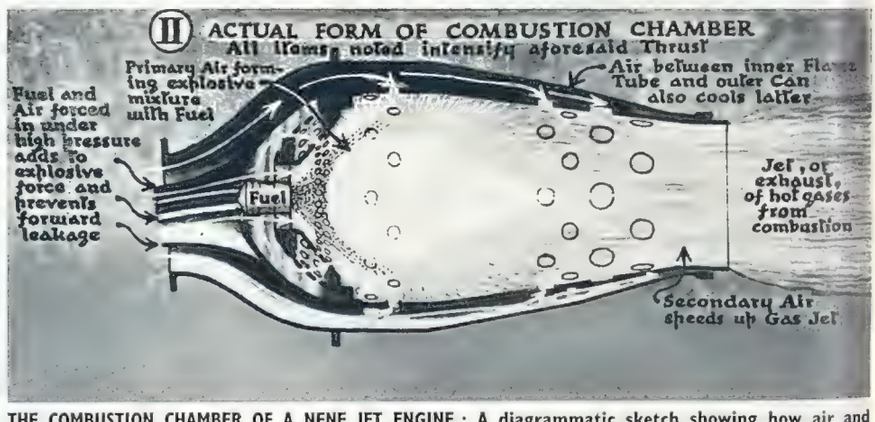
Later this year it is possible that we shall see the first jet-propelled Tudor II. in the air, and this will be another big step forward from the Lancastrian. Presumably the Nenes will be installed in pairs. There are several very distinct advantages in this arrangement, not the least of which is the ability to fold up the main wheels between the jet pipes and so keep down the depth of the nacelle.

A PIONEER OF JET FLIGHT: The celebrated Gloster Meteor was first flown in 1943, operated against flying bombs in 1944, and, finally, with the Derwent engine, achieved the world speed record at Bognor last year. Until the Lancastrian, with its two Nene engines and its two Merlins, came on the scene, designers were entirely dependent on the information obtained from these small, pure-jet military aircraft, and it can be said that they have played an outstanding part in jet development

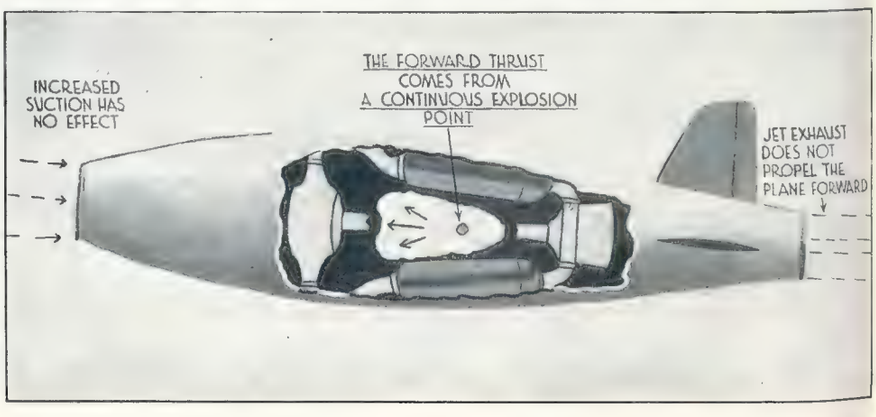
AMERICA'S RIVAL TO THE GLOSTER METEOR: The Thunderjet P.84, the new jet fighter plane of the United States Army Air Force, emitting a trail of smoke as it raced across the 3-mile course above Muroc Army Airfield. The aircraft was clocked at 619 m.p.h., but this single run was insufficient to beat the British record established at Bognor in 1946. America now has a jet bomber, the Consolidated Vultee XB-46, and news of its performance is being awaited with interest



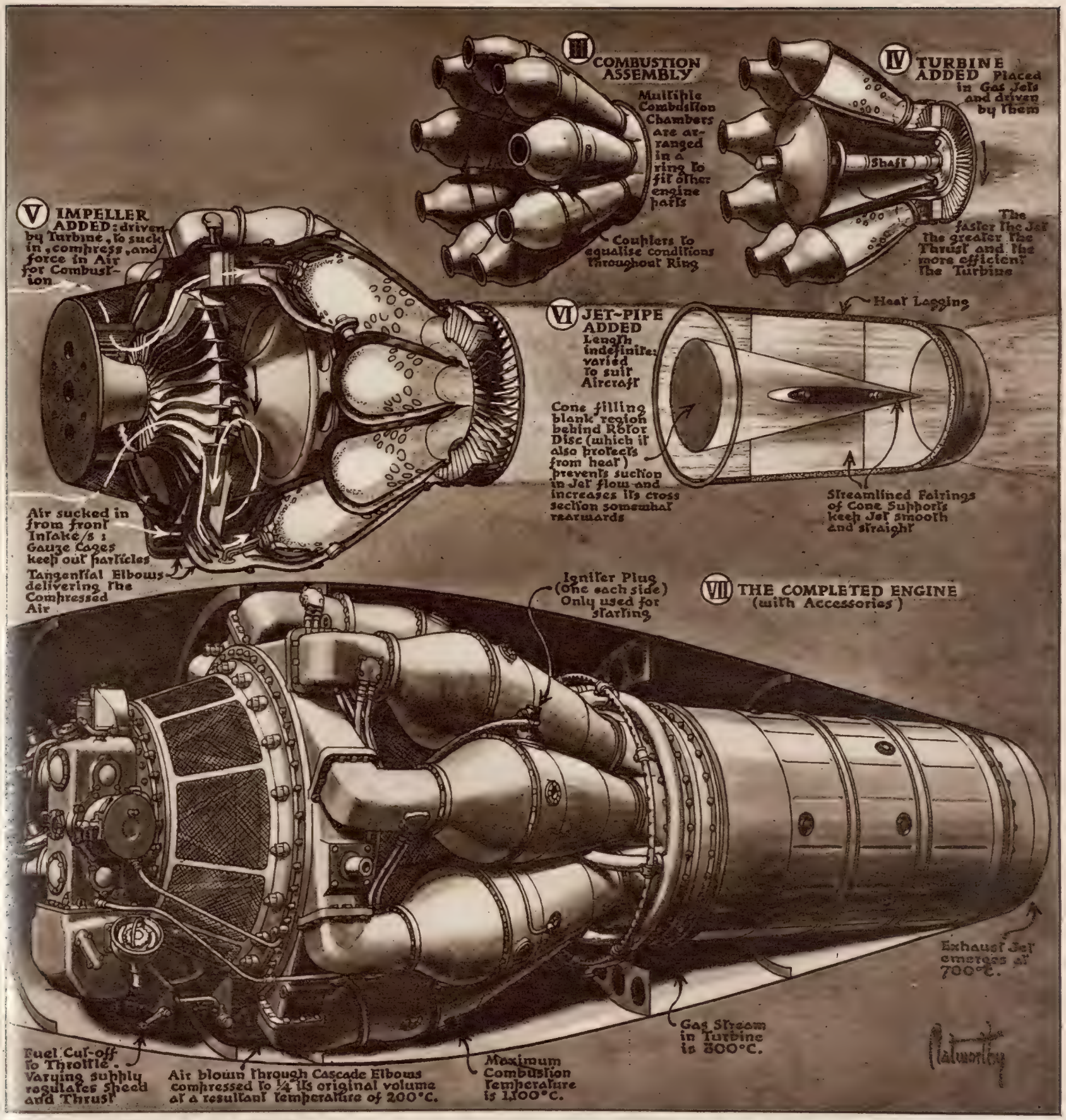
HOW THE JET PLANE GOES FORWARD ENTIRELY THROUGH ACTION WITHIN THE ENGINE ITSELF: A diagrammatic sketch of the combustion chamber showing how the upward and downward thrusts cancel out, how the rearward thrust is dissipated, and the forward thrust is alone effective, causing the plane to surge forward. As the forward move is dependent solely on these forward internal thrusts, the plane naturally gathers pace in the stratosphere, where resistance is least—*Drawing by Clatworthy*



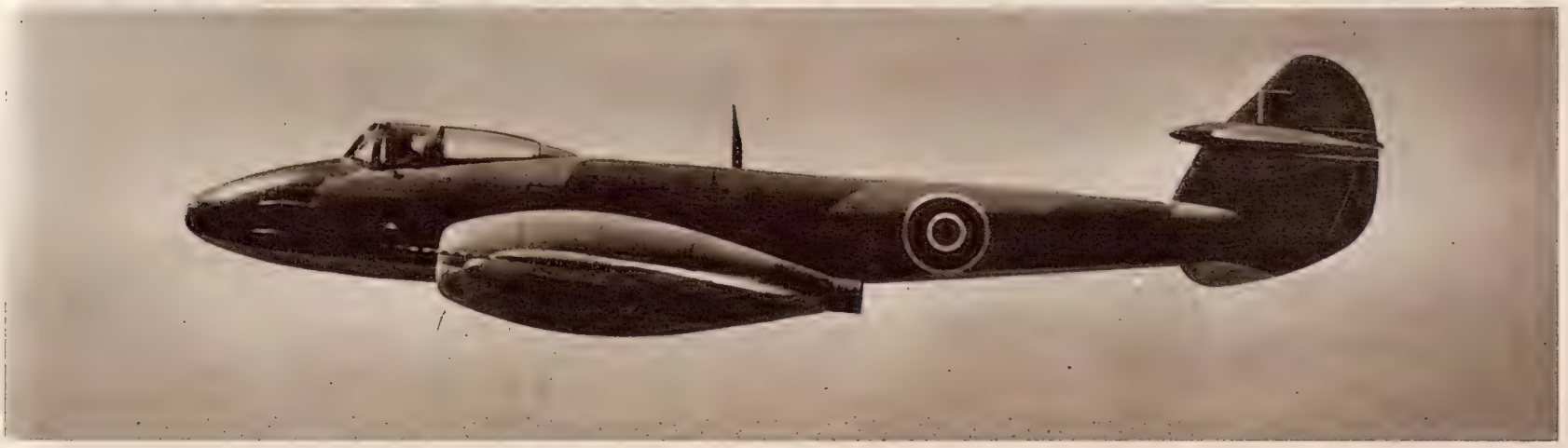
THE COMBUSTION CHAMBER OF A NENE JET ENGINE: A diagrammatic sketch showing how air and fuel create the explosive mixture within the chamber, thus generating the mighty thrust which drives the plane smoothly forward. There is no forward leakage, as fuel and air are at that point being thrust into the chamber under high pressure—*Drawing by Clatworthy*



On right—**THE CONTINUOUS EXPLOSION POINT PROVIDES THE THRUST:** A sketch illustrating a basic principle of jet propulsion. The explosion point is really an internal fulcrum against which the forward thrust lever can work—*Drawing by Roland Davies*



COMPONENT PARTS OF A GAS-TURBINE—A SERIES OF SKETCHES SHOWING HOW THE NENE ENGINE IS BUILT UP: Constructionally there is nothing unduly complicated in the unit, but owing to the immense temperatures which are generated by the Nene, special alloys have had to be developed. It will be seen how the multiple combustion chambers send their power through the turbine, which in turn drives the impeller. The impeller forces in the air which mixes with the fuel in the combustion chamber. The lower drawing shows the complete assembly—*Drawing by Clatworthy. Artist's copyright in U.S.A. and the Western Hemisphere*



THE GLOSTER METEOR IN FLIGHT—THE MACHINE WHICH BROKE THE WORLD SPEED RECORD AND HAS PIONEERED JET PROPULSION IN BRITAIN: The Derwent engine of the Meteor has now been succeeded by engines of greater thrust, notably the Rolls-Royce Nene, which is illustrated in diagrammatic form on this page. A very-long-range pure-jet engine is the De Havilland Ghost, which has an economical cruising consumption of 150 gallons per hour at 35,000 ft.

AN AMERICAN WARSHIP'S GOODWILL VISIT TO BRITISH WATERS : The Cleveland class light cruiser "Wilkes-Barre" alongside the quay at Southampton after her arrival in company with the destroyers "Hugh Purvis" and "Beatty." The catapult launching-gear of the "Wilkes-Barre" and the stern crane for bringing seaplanes aboard are clearly seen

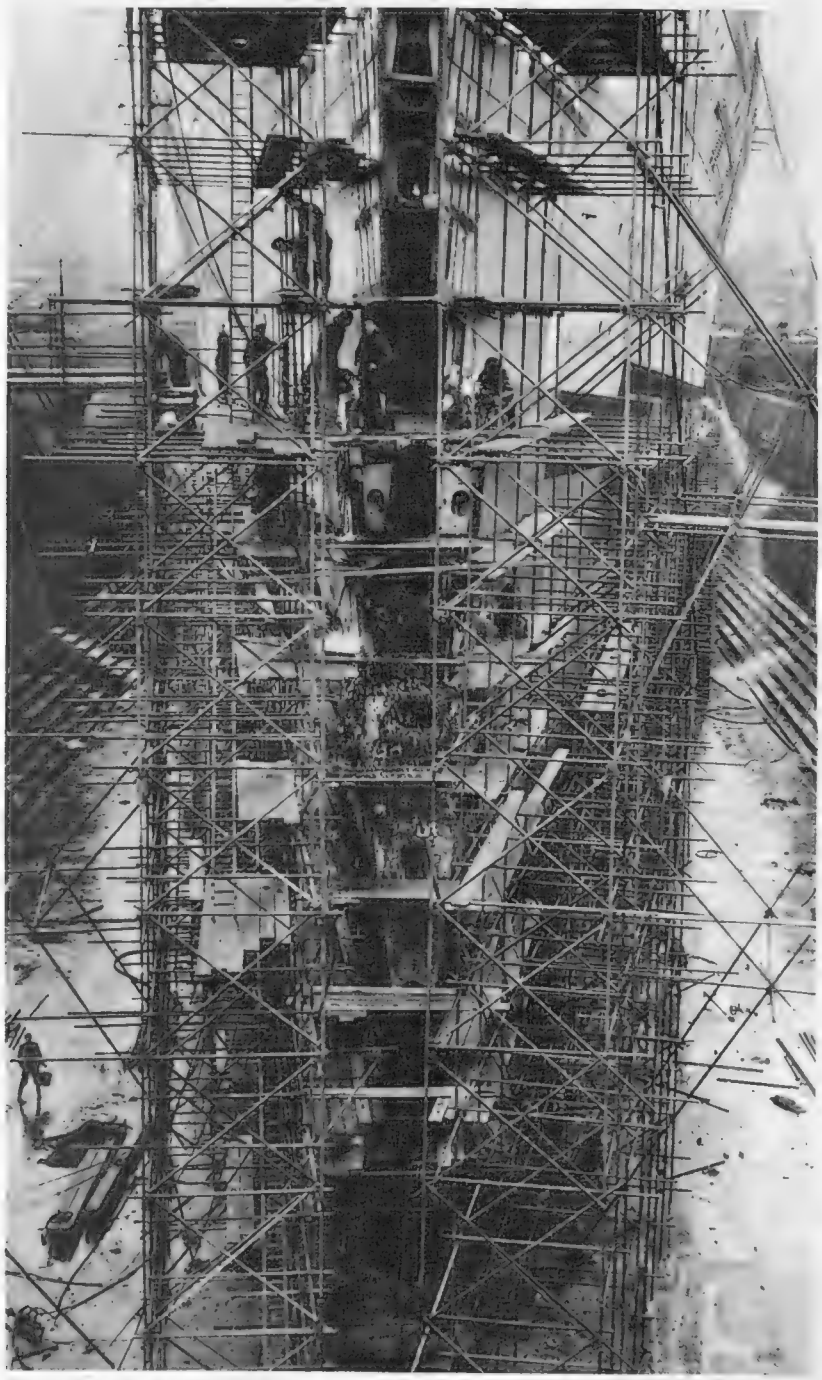
SISTER-DESTROYERS OF THE SUMNER CLASS : "Beatty" and "Hugh Purvis" at Southampton following their arrival as escorts to the "Wilkes-Barre." These two American destroyers are the fastest vessels of their kind ever built in the United States

The courtesy visit to British waters of the cruiser *Wilkes-Barre* and the destroyers *Beatty* and *Hugh Purvis* is of special interest in view of the fact that they represent two of the most successful types of warship built in American yards during the last war. During their stay at Southampton Admiral Richard Conolly, the American Naval Commander in European waters, wore his flag in the *Wilkes-Barre*. Some of the ships of the Cleveland class, to which *Wilkes-Barre* belongs, played a vital part in the Pacific War, taking a prominent part in battles off Okinawa and Formosa. The Sumner destroyers are of 2,200 tons and carry six 5-in. guns. The accompanying pictures show in clear detail the radar equipment of the three vessels.

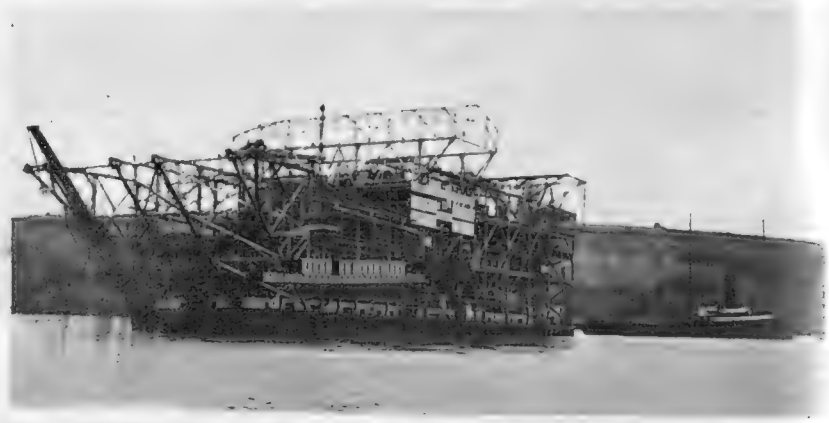
A Home News Survey

U.S. WARSHIPS PAY A CALL

The "Queen Mary's" New Stem : A Dredger in Difficulties : The Ladysmith Dinner



FITTING A NEW STEM TO THE "QUEEN MARY" : Welders at work on the scaffolding which has been built round the bows of the 80,000-ton liner in the King George V Graving Dock at Southampton, where she is now being fitted out prior to the resumption of her passenger service on the North Atlantic. The present repair work to the bow will make good permanently the damage suffered by the liner in the collision with the cruiser *Curacao* off Donegal in October 1942. After the accident, in which the cruiser was sunk with the loss of 25 officers and 313 ratings, the liner was fitted with a fabricated bow at the Navy Yard, Boston. The new steel stem casting at present being fitted was made in America during the war and brought to Southampton by the *Queen Mary* herself



THE ADVENTURES OF A DUTCH DREDGER : The tug "Ganges" towing the dredger off a sandbank at St. Just, in Rosland, Cornwall, where she was driven during a 60-m.p.h. gale. The dredger, a combined equipment for recovering gold and tin from the rivers of Malaya, recently left Holland en route for the East. On board was a Dutch crew. Encountering heavy gales, she ran for safety in Falmouth Harbour, but after getting safely into the Carrick Roads, she dragged her anchors and it was then that she went aground at St. Just. It was decided when the dredger had reached deep water again that she should at once be inspected by divers

CHINA SENDS AN EDUCATIONAL MISSION TO GREAT BRITAIN : Mr. Tomlinson, the Minister of Education, with the five delegates who have come over as the guests of the British Council to spend six months studying some of the varied aspects of our educational system. On the left is Dr. Chung Tao-tsan, Chief Inspector of the Ministry of Education in Nanking. His four colleagues represent either Teachers' Colleges or Provincial Educational Authorities, and they are hoping to make use of what they consider to be the best of our teaching methods

THE **PIANO IS HER FORTE! This infant musical prodigy has been discovered at Stanmore, Middlesex. She is Philomena Macrae, who at the age of seven already plays piano sonatas by Beethoven, Mozart and Haydn.** Philomena, whose mother—Mrs. Elsa Macrae—is a 'cellist, passed her first Royal College of Music examination when she was five, her second and third last year, and her fourth this year, all with distinction. She also won two silver medals at the North London Music Festival last year, when she played Mozart's Sonata in C Major. Philomena, of whom it is predicted the world will hear quite a lot before long, has been nominated for the London Music Festival, taking place at Westminster next month

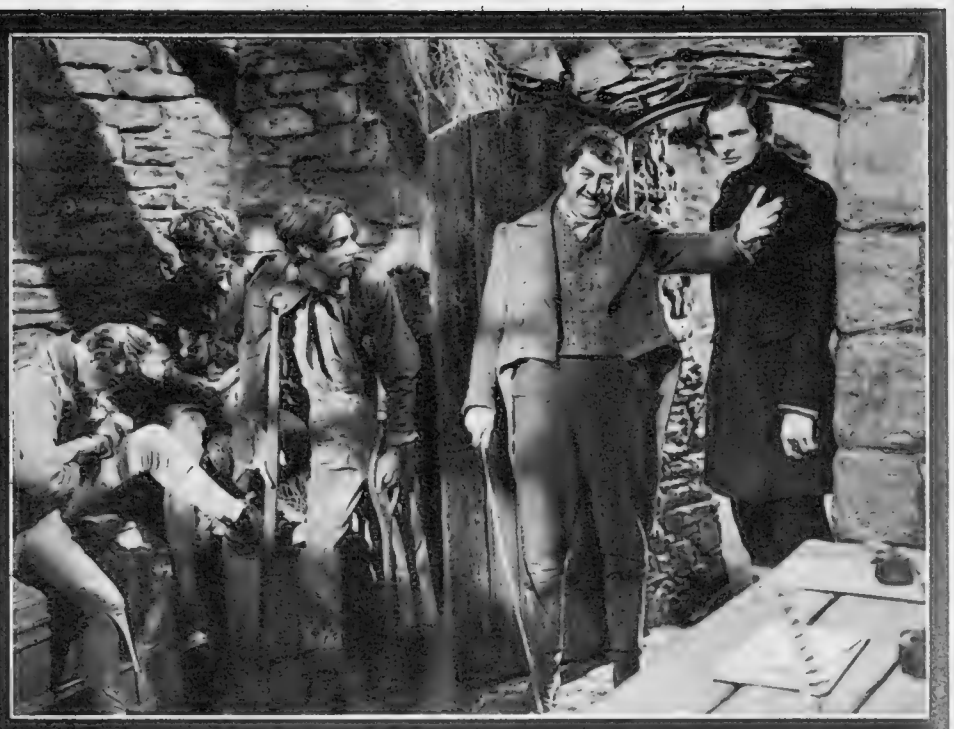
THE **CALL-OVER FOR THE GRAND NATIONAL AND THE LINCOLNSHIRE: Mr. Harry Moss on the rostrum at the Victoria Club, Wellington Street, London, when the betting-book on the two big races was adjusted by leading bookmakers.** Owing to the fact that there has been no steeplechasing of recent weeks in view of frost, snow and floods, the call-over on the National (scheduled to be run at Aintree to-day) was difficult, but in the initial betting Prince Regent was favourite

THE **SURVIVORS OF LADYSMITH: General Sir Hubert Gough (second from left, front row) was the guest of the evening of the members of the Ladysmith Dinner Club who gathered recently at the United Services Club, London.** Fourteen survivors of the Ladysmith siege attended the dinner out of the forty-three existing members of the Club. The Club was formed as a result of a vow made by the officers beleaguered in Ladysmith forty-seven years ago, when, living on a biscuit and a morsel of horseflesh per day, they swore that if ever they came through the ordeal they would have the best dinner money could buy. At one time the Dinner Club was over 100 strong. Earlier this month the King and Queen visited Ladysmith in company with Field Marshal Smuts

HAIL, SMILING "MORN"! City workers passing through City Square, Leeds, were either amused, annoyed or puzzled by the waitress's apron, the bowler hat, the posy of artificial flowers, and the whitewash adorning the celebrated statue of "Morn." For about three hours "Morn" continued to provide citizens with a topic for conversation, until a member of the City Engineer's Department, obviously embarrassed at his task, snatched the apron and posy, removed the bowler hat and speedily disappeared into the crowd

LEN HUTTON IS HOME AGAIN: England's opening bat, who topped the averages on the M.C.C. tour of Australia, seen on arrival at London Airport. While most of his colleagues continued on to New Zealand, where the tour is now being completed, Hutton was rushed home for a throat operation. It will be remembered that he was unable to complete his brilliant first innings in the last Test Match at Sydney

DEREK BOND AS NICHOLAS NICKLEBY



NICHOLAS IS INTRODUCED TO DOTHEBOYS HALL BY SQUEERS : Alfred Drayton gives a full-blooded characterisation of Squeers. On his right is Smike (Aubrey Woods), Ralph Nickleby's son, abandoned when a child so that Ralph could inherit his fortune

BRIMSTONE AND TREACLE FROM MRS. SQUEERS : Dame Sybil Thorndike in an unusual role. Squeers Junior (Roy Hermitage) enjoys the unpopular performance

The Film of "NICHOLAS NICKLEBY"

Ealing Studios Picture of the Dickens Novel, with an Impressive All-star Cast

RALPH NICKLEBY FINDS EMPLOYMENT FOR HIS NIECE AND NEPHEW : The Wicked Uncle (played by Sir Cedric Hardwicke) sends Nicholas to Dotheboys Hall and Kate to Mantalini's dress shop

SQUEERS PUNISHES SMIKE : But he is stopped by Nicholas, who fights the bully

RALPH INTRODUCES KATE TO MANTALINI : The amorous dandy is played by Cyril Fletcher, the radio comedian

Michael Balcon's production of *Nicholas Nickleby*, directed by Cavalcanti, is the latest Charles Dickens novel to be filmed. A book so full of incident and with such a multiplicity of strong characterisations presents considerable difficulties, especially when it is necessarily to be criticised by large numbers of people to whom the characters are old friends or enemies. The film is successful because it introduces most of the main incidents and because every part is skilfully cast, many being played by famous actors and actresses. Sir Cedric Hardwicke, as Ralph Nickleby, is coldly evil without ever becoming the exaggerated villain of melodrama. Stanley Holloway gives to Vincent Crummles all the airs and graces of that rich and generous character. Bernard Miles has the opportunity to indulge himself in one of his cockney characterisations as Newman Noggs. Miss LaCreevy is beautifully played by Athene Seyler, and Alfred Drayton is entirely convincing as the evil, bullying Wackford Squeers. Derek Bond is a handsome Nicholas Nickleby, and the young women are charmingly done by Sally Ann Howes (Bobby Howes' daughter) as Kate and Jill Balcon (Michael Balcon's daughter) as Madeline

NEWMAN NOGGS TELLS NICHOLAS THAT SMIKE CAN ALWAYS FIND A HOME WITH HIM : Bernard Miles gives a brilliant performance as Ralph Nickleby's drunken but kindly old clerk. He befriends Nicholas and finally informs on his master

MR. CRUMMLES CONGRATULATES NICHOLAS, HIS NEW ROMEO

NICHOLAS RESCUES SMIKE THE SECOND TIME

The Actor-Manager is richly portrayed by Stanley Holloway. Vincent Crummles befriends Nicholas and Smike, when they leave Dotheboys Hall, after the fight with Squeers

Squeers kidnaps Smike, but Nicholas and Newman Noggs soon find him. Noggs recognises Smike as Ralph's own abandoned son

NICHOLAS CONFRONTS SIR MULBERRY HAWK AND LORD VERISOPHT : In a restaurant, he overhears Sir Mulberry (Cecil Ramage) and Lord Verisopht (Tim Bateson) discussing their evil plan to carry off his sister Kate

SALLY ANN HOWES AS KATE

SMIKE'S LAST ILLNESS : Kate nurses him and he falls in love with her. Although he is beginning to recover, he is very weak, and when he learns of her love for Frank Cheeryble, he dies

NICHOLAS PREVENTS HIS UNCLE'S MARRIAGE TO MADELINE BRAY : He arrives at the last moment and the timely death of Madeline's father, who was deep in debt to Ralph, makes all well. Madeline Bray is played by Jill Balcon

THE HAPPY ENDING : Disaster after disaster finally resolves into wedding bells. Kate marries Frank Cheeryble (Emrys Jones), Madeline marries Nicholas and Miss LaCreevy (Athene Seyler) marries Tim Linkinwater (Roddy Hughes)

BRITAIN DEALS WITH HER DESERTERS

But Even Current Leniency is Only Bringing a Few of Them In

By CHARLES GRAVES

THE day after to-morrow (March 31) the Government offer of sympathetic treatment to Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force deserters who surrender themselves voluntarily will lapse. Up to a fortnight ago, 837 Army deserters, apart from Royal Navy and Royal Air Force deserters, had surrendered over the period of seven weeks dating from January 22, when the offer was first made. It is difficult to tell how many will, at the last minute, take advantage of the offer, but the total figure is unlikely to exceed 1,000.

Officially, there were at the beginning of this year 20,000 deserters, of whom 17,000 were Army men. Unofficially, this number is thought to be greatly exaggerated. It would not be surprising if 2,700 Army deserters had joined the Merchant Navy, the Royal Navy, or the Royal Air Force. It is equally possible that of the 17,000-odd, many more re-enlisted in the Army. Hundreds of others may have died or been blitzed. All of which means that the number of extant deserters still alive and at large is far smaller than official statistics suggest. What is more, over 5,300 " deserters " are, or were, non-reporters. A non-reporter has nothing to do with Fleet Street. It refers to men who failed to comply with their call-up notices and were officially posted as deserters twenty-two days after they should have presented themselves at the requisite place. But it is safe to say that a high percentage of these men may afterwards have joined the Merchant Navy or the three fighting Services.

Though this affects only 100 of the thousands of deserters, it is also worth pointing out that large numbers of Irishmen serving in the Free State Army deserted the Free State Army to join the British Army and see some fighting. Of these, something like 100 later took their Army leave in Southern Ireland and were promptly gaoled by the Irish Free State Army for various periods of time, all of which exceeded the twenty-one days which constitute the Absence Without Leave from the British Army.

Recently, Mr. De Valera has changed his tune, and Irishmen who desert from the Irish Free State Army to join the British Army and then are " picked up," are now merely dismissed from the Irish Free State Army for " misconduct." (Incidentally, they also lose seven years' civilian rights.) There are at least two recorded instances of Irishmen who, having left the Irish Free State Army for the British Army, took their leave in Eire, were sentenced to some months of imprisonment, returned to the British Army, again took leave and suffered a second and much lengthier term of imprisonment.

Another particularly interesting statistic is provided by Scotland Yard. Of the various persons arrested and convicted in Metropolitan London during the past twelve months, only 8 per cent. were deserters. This suggests that in spite of a deserter's official inability to acquire clothing coupons, civilian identity card and ration book, surprisingly few devoted themselves to a life of crime. Mark you, there was a period when a deserter could buy a complete outfit of civilian papers in Glasgow for the modest sum of 15s. This price has increased recently. But still . . .

The January 22 announcement by the War Office contained a number of clauses to which additions were made subsequently. The first was the promise that any deserter who surrendered would not be placed in Close Arrest; instead, he would be kept in Open Arrest (i.e., confined to barracks) until brought to trial. The second clause promised that he would be brought to trial as soon as possible—usually within fourteen days. The third guaranteed a liberal policy of suspension of sentences on military deserters who surrendered themselves. (It may be stated that in some cases the sentence was suspended right away, and that in the majority of cases the sentence is being suspended after one-third has been served.) The fourth stipulated that any military deserter who surrendered himself was assured that his family would once again receive the normal family allowances from the day that he " turned it in." Fifthly, it was promised that his actual surrender would carry a good deal of weight with the court-martial authorities who tried any man who voluntarily surrendered. What this really meant, and still means, is that any man who surrenders voluntarily stands much more chance of being convicted of Absence Without Leave, however lengthy that absence may have been, than of desertion. For by modern military law the prosecutor is compelled, if he is to prove actual desertion, to show that the man absent without leave had no intention of returning to his unit. In which connection, any military deserter who happens to read this and acts upon it before Monday, might well take my tip and plead " Not guilty of desertion," however guilty he may be of being Absent Without Leave.

According to military law, there are three categories which affect a man who has disappeared from the Army without permission. The first is being Absent Without Leave for twenty-one days. The second is Simple Desertion, when the man goes absent and has no intention of returning to his unit. The third, quite the most serious, is known as Constructive Desertion. This is applied to men who, having been warned that their unit is embarking for overseas service or, alternatively, have been warned that their unit is going into action, proceed to desert. In point of fact, statistics show that 1,668 men of the British Army deserted overseas.

After January 1945 the figures of Army deserters show a considerable decrease up to and including VJ-Day. In December 1946, 322 additional men were listed as military deserters. In the first month of January 1947 there were over 600, but there is always this seasonal increase of deserters round about Christmas, and it must be remembered that desertion (or Absence Without Leave) does not operate until twenty-one days' grace has elapsed.

In the meantime, the War Office has faithfully maintained its promise about sympathetic treatment of men who surrendered themselves. This is shown by sentences on deserters who voluntarily gave themselves up. It is impossible to give figures of " average sentences," but last week the highest was two years, and the lowest was one day's detention—which meant that the deserter was released on the spot. In any event, any deserter who surrenders himself is likely to serve only one-third of his sentence if he behaves properly in the detention barracks.

So much for the sentences. What is much more fascinating is the life which has been led—perhaps for five years—by the deserters. It has been shown that, according to Scotland Yard, only a small percentage of criminals arrested during the past twelve months were, in fact, Army deserters. The answer is that (*a*) a surprisingly large number of deserters have secured jobs at holiday camps, the promoters of which did not seem to have shown undue curiosity about the antecedents of their employees; (*b*) numbers have got jobs as builders' operatives, doing repair work and bomb-damage work; (*c*) several have lived on the illicit earnings of women, particularly in the Pimlico area.

The vast majority, however, do not, at their court martial, offer any details of how they have kept body and soul together. This is more likely due to a desire to avoid implicating their employers than to a guilty conscience, though it would be incredible if many of them had not been engaged in semi-Black Market operations. Actually, it seems a great pity that greater pressure is not brought to bear on deserters at a court martial to explain in detail how they have succeeded in surviving without recourse to the normal ration books. . . .

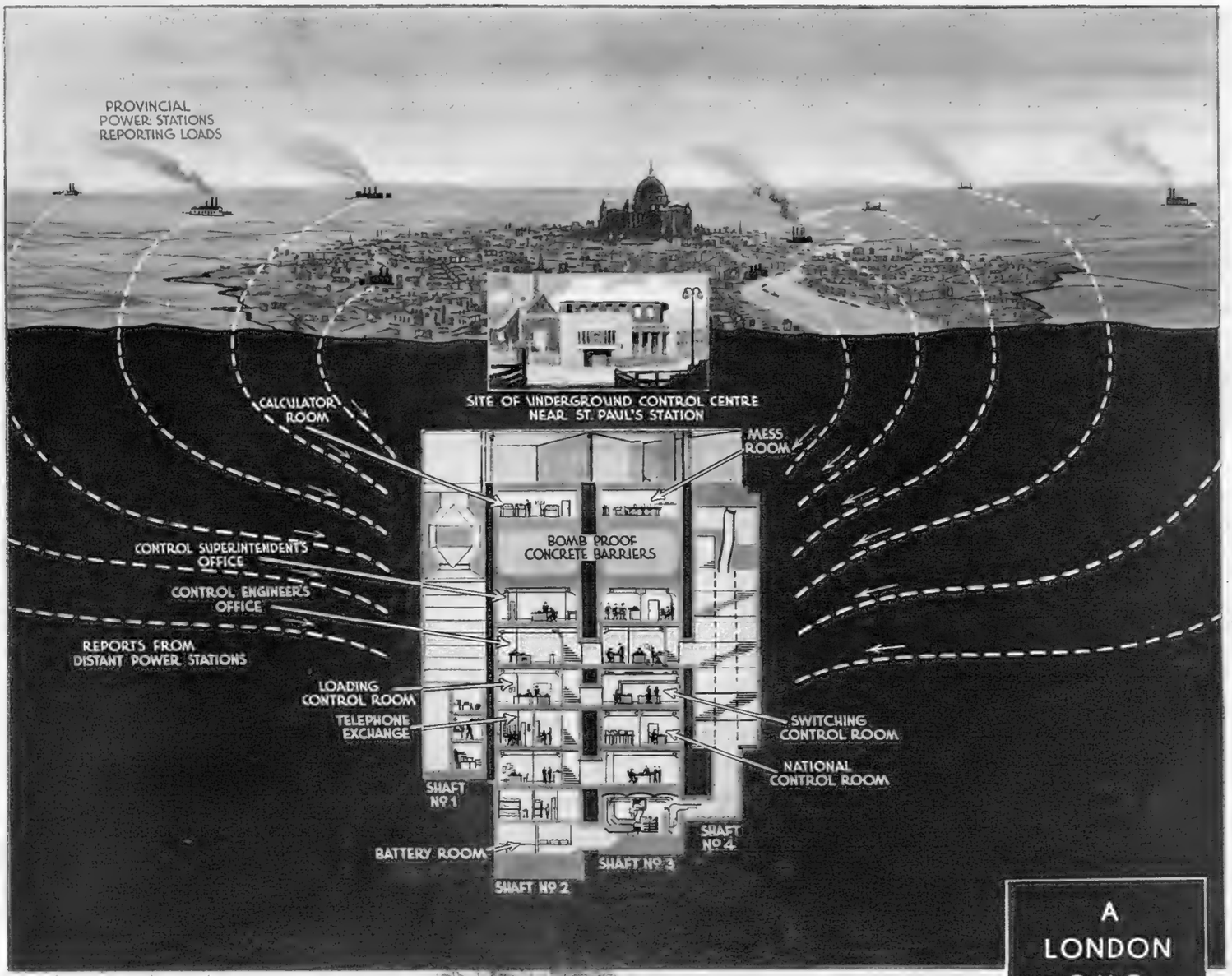
As for the reasons for desertion, a high percentage seem to be concerned with men whose wives have had operations, become tubercular, or proved themselves unfaithful. One deserter who left the Army because his wife was ill joined the N.F.S. during the " doodle-bug " period in order to earn more money to pay the arrears, or so he said, of his poverty-stricken family's rent.

In a number of cases, the deserter absented himself directly after a lengthy period in an Army hospital. In fact, without any attempt to mitigate a military crime which in the last war was frequently expiated by shooting, one can say that desertion from the British Army has been comparatively low and, though always inexcusable, very often explicable—up to a point. . . .

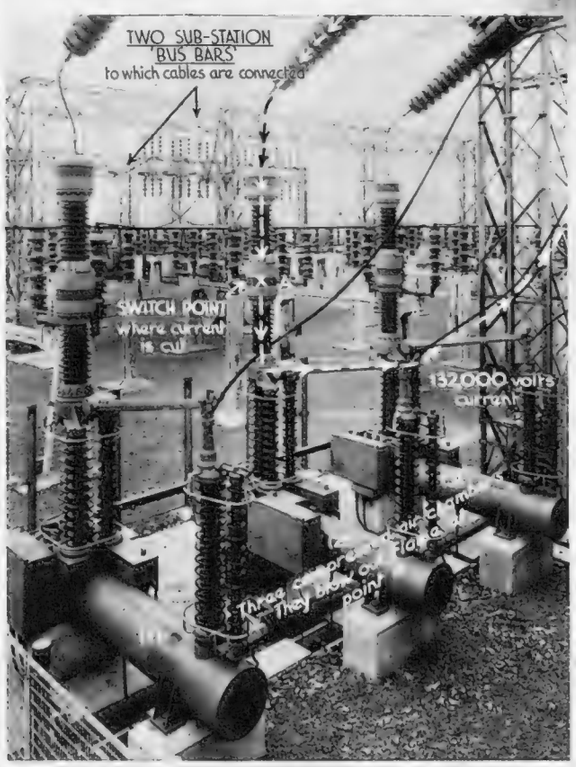
MORE MINOR WAR CRIMINALS STAND THEIR TRIAL AT NUREMBERG: The defendants seated in the dock during the hearing of Case No. 4 at the Palace of Justice, where eighteen officials of the Main Economics and Administrative Branch of the S.S. are now facing the international tribunal. In the seat where Goering sat, dominating his fellow-accused and putting on a last act of Nazi defiance, is Oswald Pohl. These men may be minor war criminals, but they face major charges, and the prosecution has a vast weight of evidence against them. Next on the list for trial are German Foreign Office officials and diplomats, among whom is Ribbentrop's under-secretary, Moyland von Steengracht

CASE NO. 4 IS HEARD AT NUREMBERG: A close-up of some of the eighteen former officials of the Main Economics and Administrative Branch of the S.S. as they listened to the ..... against them being read out in the Palace of Justice

A LONDON G.H.Q. FOR THE CONTROL of POWER CUTS



A FOCAL-POINT OF THE BRITISH GRID SYSTEM—AT THIS G.H.Q. BENEATH LONDON'S OLD POST OFFICE TUBE STATION A CONTROL SUPERINTENDENT AND HIS CHIEF ENGINEER REGULATE THE TASK [illegible]DING THE LOAD WHEN POWER CUTS HAVE TO BE MADE: The station served a vital purpose during the war when bombing at any moment could wipe out a major power station, and it is playing an almost equally important task to-day in the Central Electricity Board's administration. The danger-point is reached in electricity supply when auxiliary motors driving the boiler fans in a generating station are on the point of stopping, as they do under the influence of varying frequencies. Should they do so, the whole station would have to shut down immediately, and this would, of course, have a snowball effect throughout the country. There might, indeed, be a national black-out, and it would take many hours to build up power. Whenever meter readings show that a danger-point is being reached, the telephone-room at the London G.H.Q. communicates with area controls in Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, and other centres. The 140 main generating stations in Britain are thus warned in time—*Drawing by S. E. Beck*



EQUIPMENT BROUGHT INTO USE BY ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS WHEN THE LOAD HAS TO BE SHED AND WHOLE DISTRICTS CUT OUT: *Above* and *on right*—Two examples of the air-blast switchgear which, at the critical moment of switching off, blows out the resultant flame by means of compressed air. This air-blast switchgear is used mostly in outdoor sub-stations in country districts. In towns oil switch circuit breakers are the standard equipment

The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

ANGELA THIRKELL INVITES CONTROVERSY

Some May Find Her Literary Mannerisms Unbearable; Others May Delight in Her Polite Realism

WHETHER Mrs. Angela Thirkell writes inspired nonsense or acute social commentaries, I will leave to her more devoted fans to decide. Superficially, one or two things are obvious: that she takes a dim view of the present Government, that Winchester's motto —"Manners makyth man"—has a profound appeal to her, and that "Breeding will tell" is an article of her faith as a novelist. Let us, for instance, consider her new novel, PEACE BREAKS OUT (Hamish Hamilton. 10s.).

This is either a light and witty romance, with evidence of peculiarly good observation, or it is one of those stories in which the writer's mannerisms are maddening to the point of being unreadable. You pays your ten shillings and you takes your choice, although it might be more exact to say that the choice is made for you already by the manner of man you are.

Mrs. Thirkell, for instance, has a Lady of the Manor approach to the doings of a small country town or village that will cause the hair to stand neatly on end on some heads, while her polite realism will delight other readers, and leave their hair where it found it. For these reasons, Mrs. Thirkell's writing is not so much a matter for literary criticism as for personal prejudice or appreciation. I happen to think it very funny—but then, I think snobbery 's funny, too.

It 's all in the way you look at it.

There has been a slight pause in the flow of novels with Victorian or Edwardian setting lately, but Lady (Winifred) Peck resumes the cycle with THROUGH EASTERN WINDOWS (Faber. 9s. 6d.), which is the story of an other-worldly, Victorian bishop, his seven children and his young second wife, told against the background of her childhood home and relations. The setting is the Manor House of an English fishing village during the 1870's, with excursions to the Rectory, to Oxford, and later to India. It is the squire's youngest daughter who marries the Bishop and welcomes a step-family of seven to the Manor. Her capacity for warm human love finds its main outlet in looking after these, and in helping them towards the careers they want.

The Bishop himself is an ascetic and a mystic, selfless rather than directly selfish, although the effect on the people close to him is much the same. He lives in the constant hope that he will be called to missionary work in India, and when this hope is fulfilled he goes out there to the martyrdom of over-work and ill-health he has unconsciously been seeking. From their births, he has dedicated all his children to the service of God, but for one reason or another none of his three sons fills the missionary bill, and his daughters follow different courses.

The story is carefully etched, though I had the feeling that it was done from fiction rather than from life. It is a *macedoine* of Victorian themes, attitudes and figures, with a Jane Austen flavour in the dressing.

LOST HAVEN (Macmillan. 10s. 6d.) is one of those stories often called "powerful" because of their realistic depiction of the sordid. Briefly, this is the story of a girl's search for peace of mind, set against the background of a small and isolated Australian township whose inhabitants live and love in defiance of the normal laws of behaviour. They have for years been inbred, and the majority are more or less, legitimately or illegitimately, related to one another.

Certainly the series of pictures is vivid, but it is also unselective with the flat veracity of the photographic plate.

The real heroine of Miss Nancy Wilson Ross's novel is a superbly ironic and detached old lady called Aunt Palm, whose influence in the life of the younger and more obvious heroine, Fredericka, is incalculable. Fredericka is a beautiful and bored woman, living comfortably and securely in a New England town. Her husband bores her, her domestic life bores her, her children don't exactly excite her, and there is no evidence that total war has any other effect on her than to make her go back to the local college and take a course in World History. Nevertheless, Fredericka 's not a fool. She is sensitive, naturally introspective, a painter of some distinction, and a naturally sympathetic person. As the book opens, however, Aunt Palm is the only vital interest in her life, for Aunt Palm is always unpredictable, and that to the point of being considered quite mad by neighbours and strangers.

THE LEFT HAND IS THE DREAMER (Hamish Hamilton. 10s. 6d.) is, as a novel, as delicate, thoughtful and shapely as Fredericka. It is quiet, but not dull; restrained, but not inhibited.

A large detective whose chief interest in life is growing orchids, and his assistant, who seems to maintain his strength on farinaceous foods and glasses of milk, are the bright pair who solve the murder mysteries in this week's best thriller. Devotees of this kind of literature will not need to be told that these are that sedentary genius, Nero Wolfe, and his helper or leg-man, Archie. These creations of Mr. Rex Stout's have appeared in several novels before, though, owing to Mr. Stout's wartime activities, there has been a six-years gap between this and its predecessor.

THE SILENT SPEAKER (Crime Club. 8s. 6d.) begins with the murder of a man who is to be the principal speaker at a banquet. He is murdered before he makes his speech, and, while this may give one a certain sympathy with the murderer, since it can be held that after-dinner speakers are not murdered in sufficient numbers, this is not the view of either the police or our fat friend, Mr. Wolfe.

I found him a little wordier and a thought more obscure than usual, but then this is an American novel, and Americans often are wordy. It 's a satisfactory whodunit on the whole.

Another competent thriller is REUNION WITH MURDER (Heinemann. 7s. 6d.), which has the, to me, unfamiliar setting of a Harvard class reunion.

Mr. Fuller is an ingenious architect of this kind of thing and, which is even more welcome, he has a nice sense of humour. I think you 'll like this one.

THE HORSEMAN'S YEAR, 1946-47 (Collins. 10s. 6d.) is the first issue of a new sporting year book, edited by Lieut.-Colonel W. E. Lyon, and a very distinguished production it is.

The volume covers such subjects as the future of fox-hunting, by the Duke of Beaufort, point-to-points, Irish horses, polo, hunter trials and show-jumping, racing, children riding, and every aspect of the business of horses from hackneys to the *Haute Ecole*.

A GEM OF MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE WHICH MAY BECOME NATIONAL PROPERTY: Gainsborough Old Hall, Lincolnshire, which dates from the first half of the fifteenth century. Negotiations are taking place between Gainsborough Council and the National Trust with the object of converting Gainsborough Old Hall, first into a show-place and eventually into a civic centre for the town. It is stated that the present owner, Sir Edmund Bacon, has offered the hall to the Trust, with £5,000 for repairs

SIR GIFFARD'S WORLD PLAN

And Other New Books Briefly Reviewed

Lieut.-General Sir [Giffard Martel is a soldier of distinction and our greatest tank expert. During the war he was, at a crucial period, head of the British Military Mission to Moscow, and he has now recorded his impressions of the Soviet under the title of THE RUSSIAN OUTLOOK (Michael Joseph. 10s. 6d.). Sir Giffard gives his verdict on Russia with soldierly directness, urging that in negotiations toughness is the answer that they understand and that appeasement is fatal. Many will be quick to quarrel with the author's final chapter, however, in which, with a gay abandon, and astonishing naïvety, he carves the world up into four great Empires, the Russian, British, American, and European, indicating that these groupings, under the beneficent leadership of UNO, could rule the world to its lasting good. "There is no doubt," he declares, not without patronage, "that America will eventually run a very fine Empire, with control over the greater part of the Americas." No hint is given as to Argentina's reaction to such developments. Indeed, Sir Giffard, with his light and airy touch, makes the approach to world problems seem incredibly easy. U.N.O., backed by the four Empires, would become a very simple organisation, he affirms, "and all the silly waste of time of the leaders of the small nations meeting for the assembly, where their voices could not possibly be heard, would be eliminated."

Two more political treatises of the moment are ON GOVERNING COLONIES (George Allen and Unwin. 10s. 6d.), an authoritative work by Walter Russell Crocker, having particular reference to Africa; and NATIONALISATION (Falcon Press. 3s.), by John Baker White, a new Forum Book in which the M.P. for Canterbury well and truly lets himself go. He makes it quite plain that super-planners have no part in his political philosophy.

The tens of thousands of people who forced themselves to witness the news-reel report from Belsen in 1945 became convinced in the matter of a few minutes that the grim stories of that dread German camp were in no way exaggerated. They realised at the same time that the crimes of Auschwitz, Dachau, Ravensbruck, and Breendonck had, in all their enormity, truly taken place. They were no figment of the propagandist's fervid imagination. Now comes a book to add further documentary proof and to place the concentrated horror of the photographic record in truer perspective. In BELSEN UNCOVERED (Duckworth. 8s. 6d.) Derrick Sington, who claims to have been the first British officer to enter the camp after its liberation, gives a factual, unvarnished account of his experiences, describing to what depths of degradation typhus and dysentery, allied to overcrowding and the vicious, insensate brutality of the S.S. guards, had reduced all whom it had not killed. A valuable chapter is added to Mr. Sington's book by Rudolf Küstermeier, a German political writer who was himself an inmate of Belsen, enduring its devilish tyranny and surviving, it would seem, solely because of his burning desire to go on living, his refusal to give up despite years of captivity. Like Mr. Sington, Herr Küstermeier writes with restraint, and both have a message which must never be lost to the world.

Another book with horror as its theme, but of a very different character, is WEIRD STORIES (Home and Van Thal. 8s. 6d.), by Mrs. J. H. Riddell. Mrs. Riddell may not be well known to the present generation of fiction readers, but she was a prolific novelist in Victorian days, writing one or two new books every year from 1885 until 1902. As a retailer of ghostly tales she was brilliant, and readers will readily forgive occasional pomposities of style or a momentary ponderousness of phrase.

The nineteenth century positively bristled with *causes célèbres*, some tragic, some bizarre, and all of them good copy for the newspapers of the day. Several of these *affaires*, too, were markedly controversial, and in CONSIDER YOUR VERDICT (W. H. Allen. 8s. 6d.) Horace Wyndham brings a gift for irony and his legal experience to bear on a re-presentation of the debatable facts. The court martial of Captain Carey, who was accused of deserting the ill-fated Prince Imperial in the moment of peril; the alleged murderous, but possibly mythical knife assault on Lady Florence Dixie, when she was apparently saved by her corsets and her dog Hubert; the adventures of Cora Pearl, the Plymouth girl who became Queen of the Paris half-world and the bosom companion of Princes; and the great turf scandal of 1887 all make dramatic reading. Mr. Wyndham has an engaging style, he marshals his facts well, and sometimes reveals a merciless wit.

FIRE IN THE EARTH (Robert Hale. 12s. 6d.), by James Remington McCarthy, is the story of man's search for the diamond and an account of its commercial uses. He also touches upon the history of famous stones.

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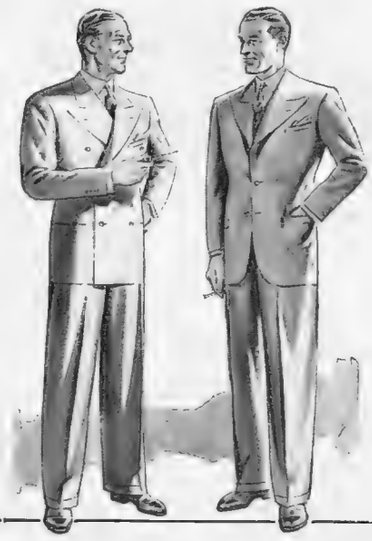

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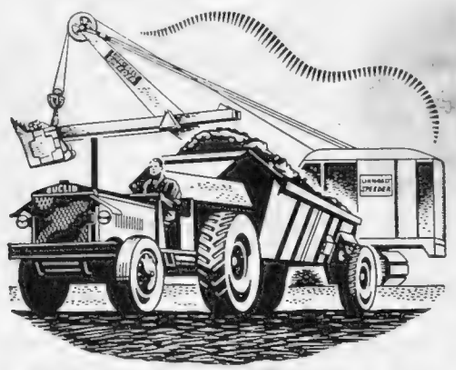

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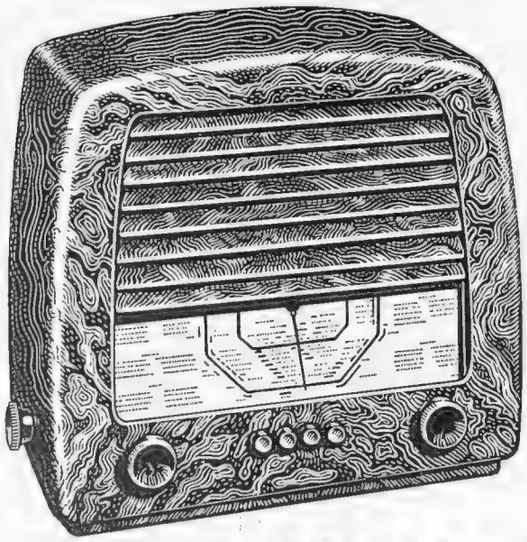

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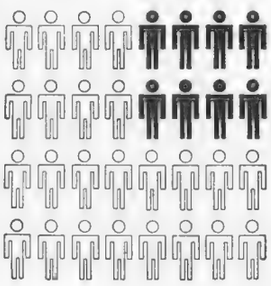

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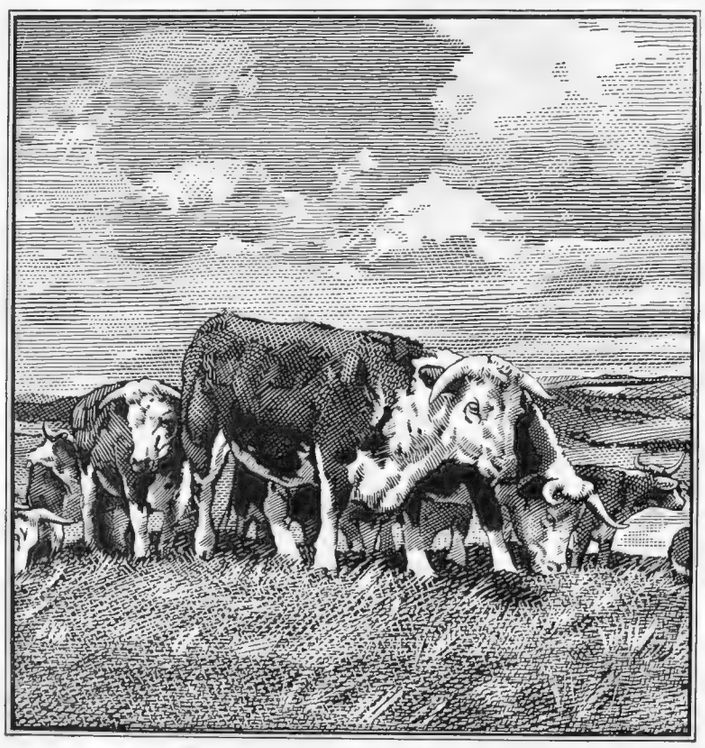

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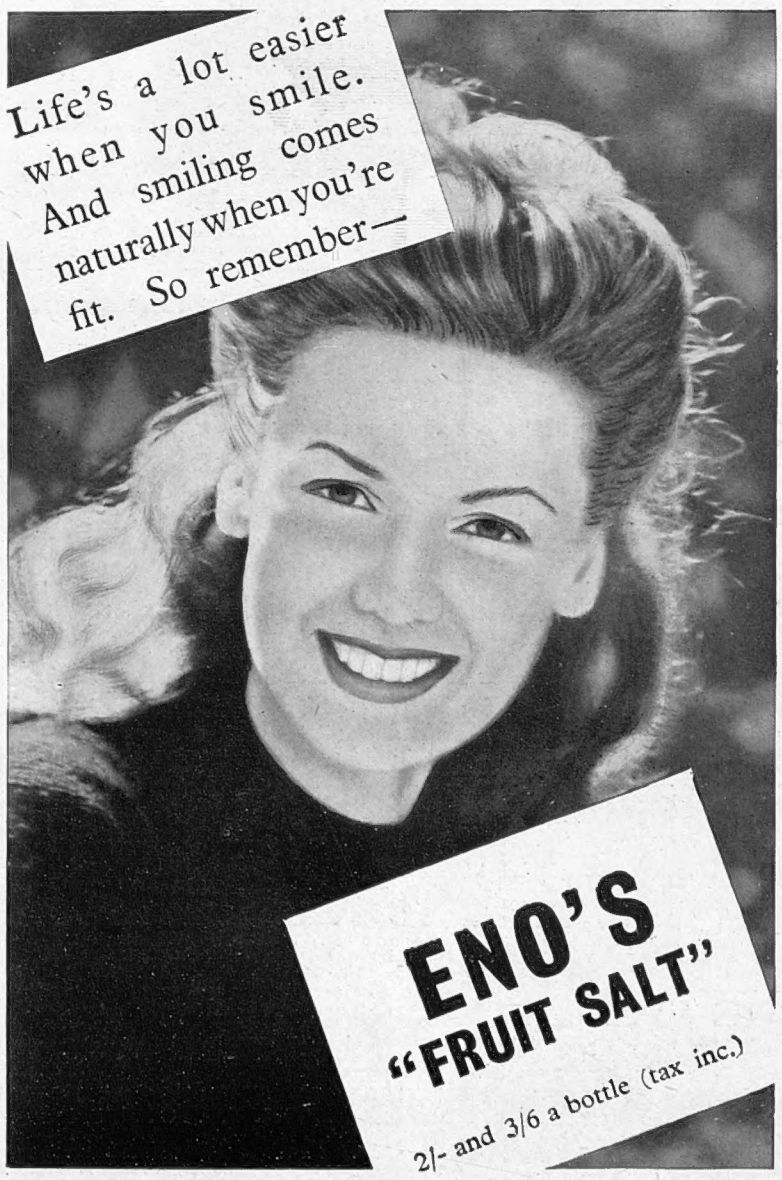

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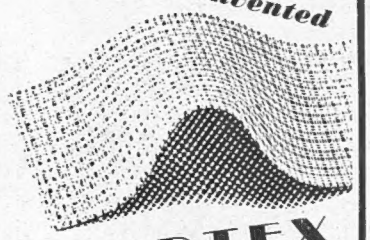

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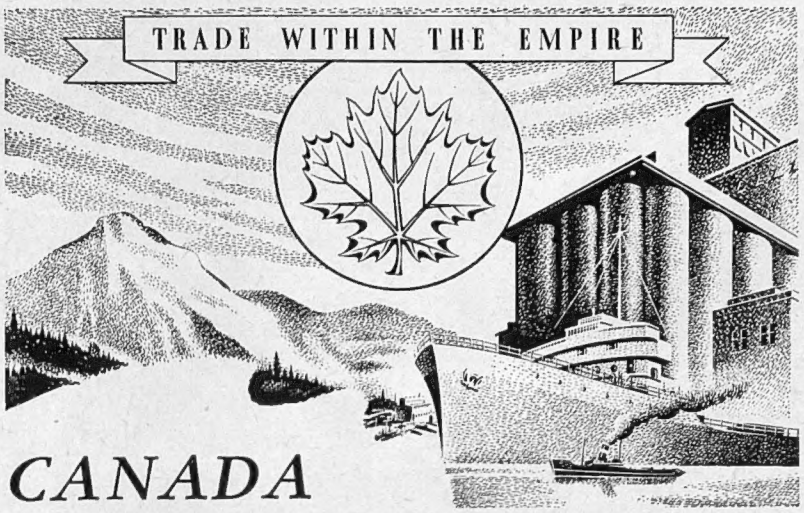

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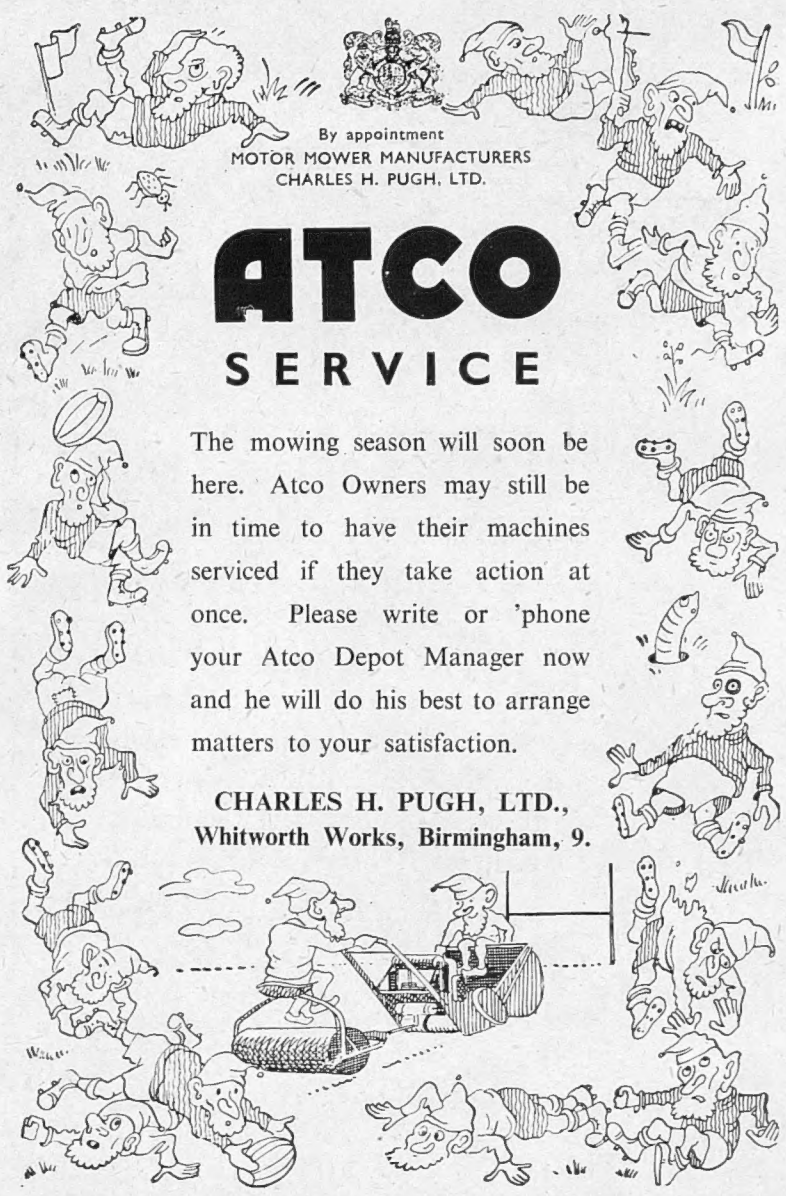

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IF you are one of the millions who suffer from colds during the winter, Serocalcin may help you. We do not claim definitely that it will, nor do we pretend that it is infallible. But many thousands of regular users find in Serocalcin the means of successfully preventing and treating colds—and so may you.

Prevention of colds

Two Serocalcin tablets are taken daily for 30 days. In many cases this gives 3 to 4 months immunity from colds.

Treatment of an existing cold

Three tablets are taken three times daily. Commenced in the early stages of a cold this often clears up the attack in 3 or 4 days. Serocalcin is suitable for adults and children.

The immunising course of 60 Serocalcin tablets costs 8/5½d. Treatment pack of 20 tablets—3/4½d.

All who suffer from colds are invited to send to Harwoods Laboratories Ltd., Watford, for descriptive booklet "Immunity from Colds".

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in original OLD-FASHIONED FLASK
Unsurpassed in quality, although restricted in distribution by scarcity of old stocks

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PRINTED IN ENGLAND by THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS AND SKETCH, LTD., Milford Lane, London, W.C.2, and Published Weekly by ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPERS, LTD., Commonwealth House, 1, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.1. SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1947. Entered as Second-Class Matter at the New York (N.Y.) Post Office, 1903.